

21  
TWENTY PAGES

# ARMY NAVY

GAZETTE OF THE  
REGULAR

JOURNAL.

AND VOLUNTEER  
FORCES.



VOLUME XVI.—NUMBER 30  
WHOLE NUMBER 810.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1879.

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"OLD RELIABLE"

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TRADE MARK.

## STILL TRIUMPHANT.

In Fall Meeting of N. R. A. at Creedmoor, SHARPS Rifles entered in SIXTEEN Matches, took first prize in twelve of them, and good prizes in the other four. Among them the

### INTER-STATE MILITARY MATCH.

The New York State Team, using Sharps Military Rifle, won with a score of ..... 974  
Best score with other Rifles..... 900

### THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY MATCH.

New York State Team, with Sharps Rifles, won with a score of ..... 1044  
Best with other Rifles..... 902

### THE INTER-STATE LONG RANGE MATCH.

Average per man using Sharps Rifles..... 918  
Other Rifles used averaged..... 198 and 197

### THE WIMBLEDON CUP.

Won by Mr. Frank Hyde with a Sharps Long Range Rifle, with a score of 148 out of 150 at 1,000 yards. (The LEECH CUP with same Rifle at Spring Meeting was won with a score of 205 points against best score by any other rifle of 197.) For the Grand Aggregate Prize three competitors, Mr. F. Hyde, Col. H. F. Clark and Capt. W. H. Jackson, all using SHARPS, tied on a score of 300.

### THE LONG RANGE MILITARY CHAMPIONSHIP.

First Prize won by Capt. J. S. Barton with a Sharps. *All prizes in this match were won with SHARPS Rifles.*

### AMERICAN TEAM WALK OVER FIRST DAY.

J. S. Sumner made with a Sharps Long Range Rifle the extraordinary score of 221 out of a possible 235 at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards.

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## "PEABODY-MARTINI" RIFLE, MANUFACTURED BY THE PROVIDENCE TOOL CO., PROVIDENCE, R. I.



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Unsurpassed for accuracy, simplicity, rapidity of fire, range and perfection of manufacture.

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The Russian General Seddeleer says of the "Peabody-Martini": "At even 2,500 yards the effect of the Infantry fire began to be felt." General Todleben says: "The Infantry fire fell like a rain of bullets up to more than two kilometres (2,200 yards) distance."

General Whistler, of our own Army, speaking of a comparative test he had personally witnessed, says: "The extreme penetration of the rifles was as follows: Springfield rifle, the ball forced itself through eight planks, and dropped; Peabody-Martini rifle, through twelve planks, but had not force enough to hold itself in the thirteenth, although it made a deep indentation. This rifle I consider the best possible one which could be adopted for the soldier, on account of its accuracy, penetration, and wonderfully long range." 3,500,000 shots have been fired from 600,000 of these rifles at our works by U. S. Government Inspectors, without accident. 200,000 service charges fired from a regular military rifle—Turkish model—without injury to the breech mechanism, and without impairing the efficiency or accuracy of the rifle. The service charge of powder is 85 grains. Weight of bullet 480 grains. The capacity of our works is equal to 1,000 finished rifles per day.

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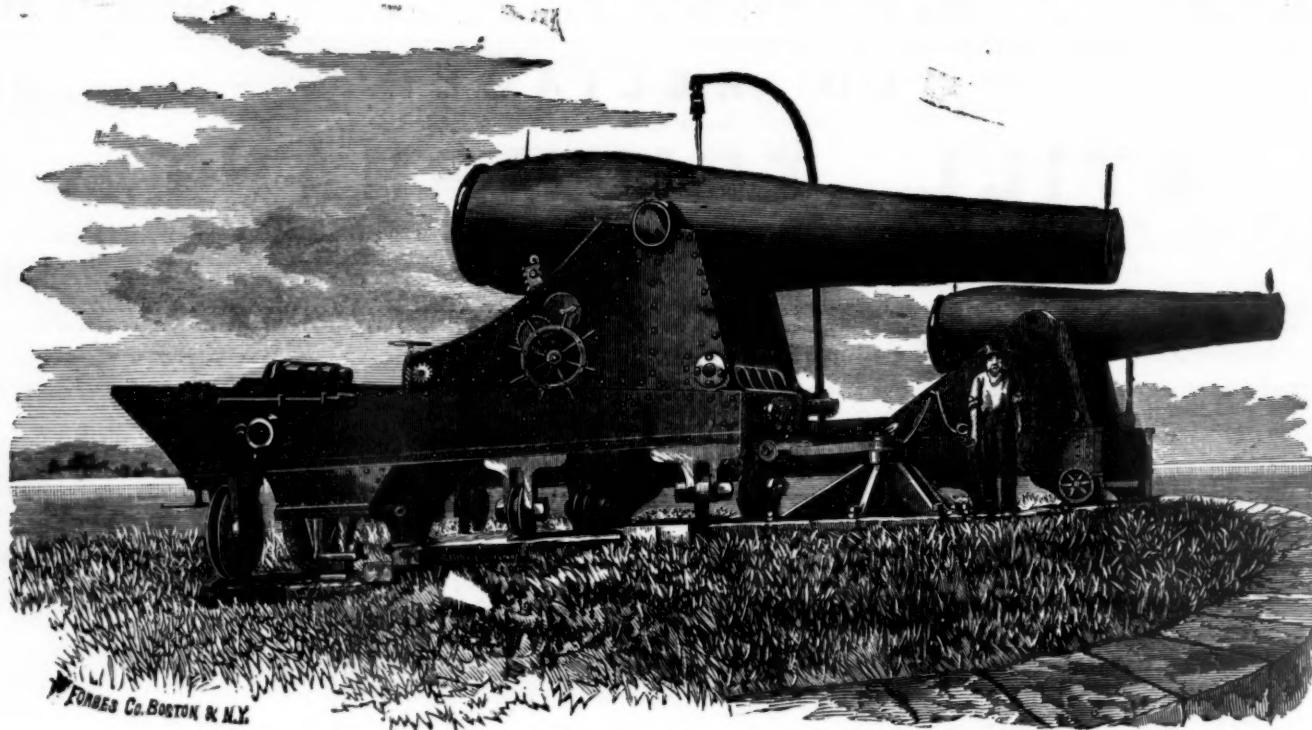
# THE SOUTH BOSTON IRON COMPANY,

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WORKS—South Boston.

The above illustration is from a photograph taken at Sandy Hook, of the 10-inch and 12½-inch experimental rifles, manufactured by the South Boston Iron Co. for the United States Government.

The report of the test firing is recorded in the report of the Chief of Ordnance for 1878, where Gen. Pénet states that they have proved more powerful than guns of like calibre, produced at the famous works of Krupp and Armstrong, in Europe.

The Constructor of Ordnance, U. S. A., says to the South Boston Iron Co. under date of Nov. 8, 1878: "The association of your foundry with the United States Ordnance Department has been so long, and the product you have furnished—more especially in your line of the heaviest ordnance—gives such continued satisfaction, that I have no hesitation in assuring you, that you have the entire confidence of the Ordnance Department in the executing of any work of this character entrusted to your execution." "And I venture to assert that your production of cast iron for gun construction cannot be excelled either here or abroad." "We are now sufficiently far advanced in experiments to confidently go to work with a view of introducing guns of the largest calibre, and of equal power to any of those that are fabricated in the work shops of the governments of Europe; also the celebrated private manufacturers of Essen (Krupp), Armstrong, Whitworth and Firth." "The table of 'powers' will show that our ordnance—as far as developed, calibre for calibre—have equal powers at least with those of Europe." "Their endurance, as far as tested, (see reports of the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., of 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877), are all that could be desired."

Table of Comparative Power of American and European Heavy Rifled Ordnance.

Kind of gun.	Calibre, Inches.	Weight of gun, Tons.	Length of bore, Inches.	Charge of powder, Pounds.	Weight of shot, Pounds.	Muzzle velocity, Feet.	Pressure per square inch of bore, Pounds.		Energy per inch of bore's circumference, at		
							Miles.	Foot-tons.	Miles.	Foot-tons.	Miles.
English M. L. Wrought iron, steel tube.	12	35	162.5	110	700	1300	52,864	217.7	184	187.5	136.4
Krupp B. L. Steel	12	35.30	227.167	110	664	1329	29,106	215.8	180	152.6	130.9
Italian B. L. Cast-iron, steel-hooped.	12.5	37	252	110	770	1220	19,845	200.8	171.4	147.9	120.2
American M. L. Cast-iron, wrought iron tube.	12.25	40	277	110	700	1403	31,750	248.4	205.8	173.2	147.9
English M. L. Wrought iron, steel tube.	10	18	145.5	70	400	1364	47,040	164.8	132.9	169.7	92.9
Krupp B. L. Steel	10	19.44	169.6	66	374	1426	.....	167.9	132.7	107.5	88.6
Italian B. L. Cast-iron, steel-hooped.	9.448	17	157.5	66	330	1426	832,000	157	125.7	99.6	82.4
French B. L. Cast-iron, steel-hooped, and tubed.	9.499	18.8	162.55	61.74	317.6	1427	....	150	117	93.8	76.8
American M. L. Cast-iron, wrought iron tube.	10	18	147.22	70	400	1381	22,000	168.4	135.6	111.8	98.8
											79.7

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## THE ARMY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President and Com'der-in-Chief.  
George W. McCrary, Secretary of War.

W.T. SHERMAN, General of the Army of the United States.

Washington, D.C. Brig.-Gen. E. D. Townsend, Adj't-General.  
H. J. Crosby: Chief Clerk, War Department.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adj't-General.  
Brig.-General Randolph B. Marcy, Inspector-General.  
Brig.-Gen. Wm. M. K. Dunn, Judge-Advocate-General.  
Colonel Albert J. Myer, Chief Signal Officer.  
Brig.-Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General.  
Brigadier-General R. Macfeely, Commissary General of Subs.  
Brigadier-General Jos. K. Barnes, Surgeon-General.  
Brigadier-General Benj. Alvord, Paymaster-General.  
Brigadier-General And. A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers.  
Brigadier-General Stephen V. Benét, Chief of Ordnance.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.  
Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan: Headquarters, Chicago, Ill.  
Colonel Wm. D. Whipple, A.A.G.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.—Brig.-Gen. A. H. Terry.

Edqrs, St. Paul, Minn.: Maj. Geo. D. Ruggles, A.A.G.

District of Montana.—Lieut.-Col. John Brooke, 3d Inf., commanding District. 1st Lt. J. Hyde, Adj't. 3d Inf., A.A.A.G.

District of the Yellowstone.—Col. N. A. Miles, 5th Inf.: Headquarters, Fort Keogh, M. T. 1st Lieut. G. W. Baird, A. A. G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.—Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth, Kas. Maj. E. R. Pitts, A.A.G.

District of New Mexico.—Colonel Edward Hatch, 9th Cavalry: Hdqrs, Santa Fe, N. M. 1st Lt. John L. Loud, 9th Cav., A.A.A.G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.—Brigadier-General Geo. Crook: Hdqrs, Fort Omaha, Neb. Lt.-Col. Robert Williams, A.A.G.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.—Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord: Hdqrs, San Antonio, Texas. (Maj. Thomas M. Vincent, A. A. G.)

District of the Rio Grande.—Col. George Sykes, 20th Infantry.

Hdqrs, Fort Brown, Texas. 1st Lt. J. B. Rodman, Adj't. 20th

Infantry, A.A.A. Gen.

District of the Neches.—Lt. Col. W. R. Shafter, 24th Infantry:

Hdqrs, Fort Clark, Tex. 2d Lt. J. H. Dorst, 4th Cav., A.A.A.G.

District of the Pecos.—Colonel B. H. Grierson, 10th Cavalry:

Hdqrs, Fort Concho, Tex. 1st Lt. Robert G. Smither, 10th Cav., A.A.A.G.

District of North Texas.—Colonel H. B. Clitz, 10th Infantry, Commanding. Hdqrs, Ft. McKavett. 1st Lt. J. F. Stretch, 10th Inf., A. A. A. G.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Hdqrs, Governor's Island, N.Y. H. Colonel Jas. B. Fry, A.A.G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.—Major-General W. S. Hancock, Headquarters, Governor's Island, N.Y. H. Col. J. B. Fry, A.A.G.

Maj. J. H. Taylor, A.A.G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.—Brigadier-General C. C. Augur: Hdqrs, Newport Bks, Ky. Maj. Oliver D. Greene, A.A.G.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC

AND DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Presidio of San Francisco, Cal.

Lieutenant-Colonel John C. Kelton, A. A. G.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.—Brevet Major-General O. O. Howard: Hdqrs, Ft Vancouver, Wash. T. Maj. A. H. Nickerson, A.A.G.

District of the Clearwater.—Colonel Frank Wheaton, 2d Infantry, headquarters Lapwai, Idaho T.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.—Brevet Major-General O. B. Willcox: Hdqrs, Prescott Barracks. Major J. P. Martin, A. A. G.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF WEST POINT.

Major-General John M. Schofield: Hdqrs, West Point, N. Y.

Capt. Wm. M. Wherry, A. D. C., Act. A. A. G.

Major-General J. M. Schofield, Superintendent, U. S. M. A.

1st Lt. Frank Michler, 5th Cavalry, Adj'tant, U. S. M. A.

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Col. C. Grover, 1st Cavalry, Commanding.

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Boston, Mass. 89 Court st., Capt. H. E. Noyes, 2d Cav.

Buffalo, N. Y. 91 Court st., Capt. H. J. Farnsworth, 8th Cav.

New York City. 174 Hudson st., Capt. E. Meyl, 4th Cav.

N. Y. Branch office, 4 Mott St., 1st Lt. C. G. Gordon, 6th Cav.

Baltimore, Md. 87½ S. Sharp st., 1st Lt. John T. Morrison, 10th Cav.

Cincinnati, O. 219 W. 4th st., Capt. Michael Cooney, 9th Cav.

Chicago, Ill. 9 S. Clark st., 1st Lt. Frank K. Upham, 1st Cav.

St. Louis, Mo. 717½ Olive st., 1st Lt. C. H. Rockwell, 5th Cav.

DEPOT—JEFFERSON BARRACKS.

Maj. James F. Wade, 9th Cavalry, Executive Officer.

First Lt. Chas. Morton, 3d Cavalry, Adj'tant.

First Lt. Frank M. Gibson, 7th Cavalry.

## GENERAL RECRUITING SERVICE.

Col. T. L. Crittenton, 17th Inf., Supt., Hdqrs, New York.

Capt. J. M. J. Sanno, 7th Inf., A. A. G.

PRINCIPAL DEPOT—DAVID'S ISLAND, N. Y. H.

Maj. Z. R. Bliss, 25th Infantry, Commanding.

Surgeon A. K. Smith, U. S. A., Post Surgeon.

Capt. J. T. Haskell, 23d Inf.

Capt. J. Simpson, A. Q. M., U. S. A.

Capt. D. H. Murdock, 9th Inf.

First Lt. Ira Quinby, 11th Inf.

First Lt. F. A. Whitney, 8th Inf.

First Lt. W. Conaway, 22d Inf.

First Lt. J. B. Guthrie, 13th Inf., Adj't.

A. Surgeon S. E. Kahn, U. S. A.

DEPOT—COLUMBUS BARRACKS, OHIO.

Maj. T. M. Anderson, 10th Inf., Commanding.

Surgeon C. B. White, U. S. A., Post Surgeon.

Capt. Kinney Bates, 1st Inf.

Capt. Gaines Lawton, 25th Inf.

Capt. A. A. Harbach, 20th Inf.

Capt. Gen. H. Burton, 21st Inf.

First Lt. C. H. Green, 17th Inf.

First Lt. A. C. Markley, 24th Inf., A. A. Q. M.

First Lt. F. Hascom, 14th Inf., Adj't.

A. Surgeon A. P. Steigens, U. S. A.

RENDZVOUS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE.

Baltimore, Md. 218 W. Pratt st., Capt. E. Butler, 5th Inf.

Boston, Mass. 18 Portland st., Capt. W. F. Drum, 2d Inf.

Buffalo, N. Y. 55 Pearl st., Capt. C. McKibbin, 15th Inf.

Cincinnati, O., cor. 4th & Sycamore st., Capt. J. Kline, 18th Inf.

Chicago, Ill. 219 Randolph st., Capt. W. H. Jordan, 9th Inf.

Cleveland, O. 132-144 Seneca st., Capt. J. A. P. Hampson, 10th Inf.

Harrisburg, Pa. 17 North 3d st., Capt. E. C. Woodruff, 12th Inf.

Indapolis, Ind. W. Washington st., Capt. O. J. von Herrmann, 4th Inf.

Memphis, Tennessee. First Lt. H. Wygant, 24th Inf.

Nashville, Tennessee. First Lt. W. J. Sanborn, 25th Inf.

New York City. 109 Walker st., Capt. W. T. Gentry, 19th Inf.

New York City. 109 West street., Capt. J. S. Fletcher, 16th Inf.

St. Louis, Mo. 112 North 2d st., Capt. J. H. Gageby, 8d Inf.

Washington, D.C. 13d H st., Capt. H. C. Corbin, 34th Inf.

G. O. 7, H. Q. A., Feb. 12, 1879.

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

An Act making an appropriation for the purchase of a site, and for the erection thereon of a military post, at El Paso, Texas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of \$40,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated for the purchase of the necessary grounds, and the erection thereon of a military post, at El Paso, Texas, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War: Provided, That before the expenditure of any of the appropriation hereby made, good and sufficient title shall be made to the United States for the land contemplated by this act.

Approved February 4, 1879.

## STAFF CORPS AND DEPARTMENTS.

Major R. N. Batchelder, Depot Q. M., San Francisco, will proceed to Camp Halleck, Nev., to examine and report upon the condition of that post as to its quarters and water supply, and its present requirements in these respects (S. O. 16, Feb. 11, M.D.P.)

Major C. M. Terrell, P. D., will proceed to Washington, D. C., and report to the Paymaster-General, on public business (S. O. 35, Feb. 18, D. T.)

Captain Wm. A. Elderkin, S. D., is relieved from further duty as a member of G. C.M., instituted by par. 2, S. O. 145, of 1878, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 18, Feb. 15, D. D.)

1st Lieut. D. M. Taylor, U. S. Ordnance Corps, is detailed as recorder of the Retiring Board, constituted by par. 6, of S. O. 23, c. s., H. Q. A. (S. O. 35, Feb. 19, D. M.)

1st Lieut. W. G. Spencer, Asst. Surg., member G. C.-M. Fort Townsend, Wash. T., Feb. 11 (S. O. 13, Feb. 5, D. C.)

Upon the arrival, at Fort Supply, I. T., of the battalion 23d Infantry—now under orders to proceed to site of new post on North Fork of Canadian River—A. A. Surg. C. H. Shriner, Jr., will be relieved from duty at that post, and directed to report to the C. O. of the battalion for duty with his command (S. O. 33, Feb. 17, D. M.)

A. A. Surg. James Rorke is relieved from duty with the detachment of recruits and will rejoin his proper station (S. O. 14, Feb. 6, D. C.)

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Four months, on Surgeon's cert. of disability, Asst. Surg. J. A. Fitzgerald, to take effect March 1, 1879 (S. O. Feb. 20, W. D.)

Fifteen days, Asst. Surg. Louis A. La Garde, Fort Columbus, N. Y. H. (S. O. 26, Feb. 18, D. E.)

## PAYMENT OF TROOPS.

Major C. J. Sprague, P. D., will proceed to, and pay the troops stationed at Forts Pembina, Totten, and Sisseton, D. T.; Major Wm. Smith, P. D., will proceed to, and pay the troops stationed at Fort Snelling, Minn., Forts Stevenson, Abraham Lincoln, Yates, and Meade, D. T.; Maj. Alexander Sharp, P. D., will proceed to, and pay the troops stationed at Forts Randall and Hale, Red Cloud Agency, and Forts Sully and Bennett, D. T. (S. O. 20, Feb. 19, D. D.)

Major James P. Carby, P. D., will pay Cos. A and E. 1st Cavalry, at Camp of U. S. Troops, near Yska City, W. T., to include the muster of Dec. 31, 1878 (S. O. 12, Feb. 3, D. C.)

The following officers of the Pay Department are designated to pay the troops serving in this Dept., on the muster and pay rolls of Feb. 28, 1879, as follows: Major N. Vedder, at Jackson Bks and Baton Rouge, La., Mount Vernon, Ala., Fort Barrancas and Key West, Fla.; Major George E. Glenn, at Chattanooga, Tenn.; Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark.; Major W. P. Gould, at Charleston, S. C., and Fort Johnston, N. C.; Major William H. Eckels, at McPherson Bks, Atlanta, Augusta Arsenal, Augusta, and Savannah, Ga., and St. Augustine, Fla. (S. O. 34, Feb. 24, D. S.)

## NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, ETC.

Hosp. Steward Joseph S. Meridith is assigned to duty at Fort Riley, Kas. (S. O. 35, Feb. 19, D. M.)

## THE LINE.

1st CAVALRY, Colonel Cuvier Grover.—Headquarters, and B. D. F. K. M. Fort Walla Walla, Wash. T.; A. E. Camp Harney, Ore. C. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; G. Fort Boise, Idaho T.; I. Camp Halleck, Nev.; H. Fort Colville, Wash. T.; L. Ft. Klamath, Ore.

Leave of Absence.—Two months, Capt. Moses Harris, Fort Walla Walla, W. T. (S. O. 14, Feb. 5, M. D. P.)

ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS 1ST CAVALRY.—Headquarters, Fort Walla Walla, Wash. T.; Lieut.-Col. J. W. Forsyth; Adjt. E. Hunter, Post Adj't; Rec. Officer; Q. M. Wm. H. Miller; A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.; Capt. M. Harris; M. Capt. C. Bendire; K. Capt. J. Jackson; B. 1st Lieut. F. A. Bottelle; D. 1st Lieut. P. S. Bonius; F. 2d Lieut. G. S. Hoyle; 2d Lieut. G. B. Backus; M. 2d Lieut. R. P. P. Wainwright; K. 2d Lieut. J. G. Galbraith; F. 2d Lieut. J. F. R. Landis, D. Fort Klamath, Ore.; Capt. S. G. Whipple; L. 1st Lieut. E. H. Shelton; L. 2d Lieut. W. C. Brown, L. Fort Boise, Idaho T.; Major J. Green; 1st Lieut. F. K. Ward, G. Camp Harney, Ore.; Capt. W. H. Winters; E. 1st Lieut. M. Wessendorff; A. 2d Lieut. H. E. Tuthery; E. 2d Lieut. F. A. Edwards, A. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; 1st Lieut. T. Garvey; C. 2d Lieut. C. C. Norton, C. Camp Halleck, Nev.; 2d Lieut. O. J. Brown, I. Jefferson Bks, Mo.; Col. Cuvier Grover, Supt. G. M. R. S. Washington, D. C.; Major G. G. Hunt, in A. G. Office. On Detached Service: Capt. D. Perry; F. 1st Lieut. W. R. Parnell, H. at Portland, Ore.; 1st Lieut. F. K. Upham, K. on Rec. Ser. at Chicago, Ill.; 1st Lieut. J. Q. Adams, B. at Fort Colville, Wash. T.; 1st Lieut. O. L. Hein, M. at West Point, N. Y. On Leave: Major G. B. Sanford; Capt. E. V. Sumner; D. Capt. R. F. Bernard; G. Capt. T. McGregor; A. Capt. J. G. Trimble; H. Capt. H. Wagner; C. Capt. C. C. Carr; I. 1st Lieut. A. G. Forse; E. 1st Lieut. C. C. Cresson; I. 2d Lieut. T. T. Knox, H.

Relieved.—Capt. Loomis L. Langdon is, agreeably to his own request, relieved from duty as Recorder of the Retiring Board convened in N. Y. City by S. O. 23, Jan. 29, 1879, from H. Q. A. (S. O. 20, Feb. 24, D. E.)

2nd ARTILLERY.—Colonel William F. Barry.—Headquarters and A. D. M. Fort McHenry, Md.; C. Fort Johnston, N. C.; E. F. G. San Antonio, Tex.; K. Ft Monroe, Va.; B. II. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Plattsburgh Bks, N. Y.; F. G. Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

\* On detached service in District of the Neches.

3rd ARTILLERY, Col. George W. Getty.—Headquarters and C. D. L. M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.; A. Ft Monroe, Va.; E. I. Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.; B. Fort Niagara, N. Y.; H. Madison Bks, N. Y.; K. Plattsburgh Bks, N. Y.; F. G. Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

Detached Service.—1st Lieut. William A. Kobbe will

proceed at once to Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., and report to Major David G. Swain, Judge-Advocate, as a witness in the case of Capt. Thomas Blair (S. O. 26, Feb. 18, D. E.)

Capt. William Sinclair, John R. Myrick, 1st Lieuts, James M. Lancaster, Lewis Smith, Ramsey D. Potts, 2d Lieuts, Clarence A. Postley, F. P. Blair, Jr., members, and 1st Lieut. John D. C. Ho-kins, Adj't, J. A. of G. C.-M. Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H., Feb. 21 (S. O. 27, Feb. 19, D. E.)

**4TH ARTILLERY**, Col. W. H. French.—Headquarters, H. E. Angel Island, Cal.; C. L. Alcatraz Island, Cal.; M. Fort Stevens, Or.; G. Fort Canby, Wash. T.; I. Fort Monroe, Va.; A. E. Fort Point, Cal.; F. Point San Jose, Cal.; B. D. Presidio Cal.

**Rejoin.**—1st Lieut. Charles A. L. Totten will turn over the detachment in his charge to the C. O. Fort Vancouver, W. T., and will then rejoin his proper station (S. O. 14, Feb. 6, D. C.)

**5TH ARTILLERY**, Col. Henry J. Hunt.—Headquarters and E. F. I. Charleston, S. C.; A. K. St. Augustine, Fla.; B. L. M. Fort Barrancas, Fla.; G. H. Key West, Fla.; C. Port Monroe, Va.; D. Savannah, Ga.

**Detached Service.**—Major Richard Arnold, A. A. Insp.-Gen., will proceed to make an inspection of the post of Fort Columbus and of Castle Williams. He will also inspect the general prisoners serving out sentences at Fort Columbus (S. O. 28, Feb. 21, D. E.)

*Gen. Sherman at Fort Barrancas.*—From Fort Barrancas, Fla., Feb. 19, 1879, a correspondent writes as follows:

The monotony of our post was considerably decreased yesterday by the arrival of Gen. Sherman and Staff. We had been expecting his arrival for some time, and everything was in "apple-pie" order. A salute of seventeen guns was fired and at half past ten A. M. Gen. Sherman and party landed on the dock, and were received by Col. Closson, the commander of the post. Wednesday morning, Feb. 19, at ten o'clock, we marched in review before the General and Staff, and I can truly say, I never witnessed more perfect wheeling. After the review we had an inspection of company quarters and the General had a smile and a kind word for the private soldiers, and seemed well pleased with the condition of the garrison, its officers and men. Miss Sherman captivated the hearts of the whole garrison by her fascinating manners and genial disposition. Feb. 20th Gen. Sherman and party left for Mobile, taking with them the best wishes of Old Fort Barrancas. Since last I wrote you we have had two officers added to the rolls, Lieuts. Homer and Woods. Both gentlemen are well liked by the men and the acquisition is a most valuable one. Our post presents a beautiful appearance to the eye of a stranger, and Co. Closson and Lieut. Reilly have left no stone unturned to make the "boys" feel "at home." The majority of the soldiers at this post have been in the South over three years, and they are looking forward with joy for the day to arrive when they will once more see the dear old North, the home of their birth. But it is not as they wish, but what the powers that be think best. We have a fine library at this post, and it has been the means of warding off many of the bad effects of an idle life. Our post school is one of the best I have seen in the Army, and the teacher deserves great credit for the patience he has shown in teaching the "young idea how to shoot." The difference between the customs of the North and South are great, and a person coming to the South for the first time would hardly believe that such a short distance could produce such a complete transformation. Florida is, indeed, a beautiful country, and the climate is delightful, but we ran a narrow risk last summer. We are having spring weather at the present time, and next month will be May in this country.

**1ST INFANTRY**, Lieut.-Col. Pinkney Lugenbeel.—Headquarters and A. C. I. Fort Randall, D. T.; B. G. Fort Hale, D. T.; D. H. Fort Sulliv. D. T.; F. K. Fort Meade, D. T.; H. Red Cloud Agency, D. T.

**2ND INFANTRY**, Colonel Frank Wheaton.—Headquarters and D. Fort Lapwai, Idaho T.; C. K. Camp Howard, Idaho T.; B. E. I. Fort Coeur d'Alene, Idaho T.; F. Camp Harney, Ore.

**Detached Service.**—Capt. J. S. Conrad, member, G. C.-M. Fort Townsend, Wash. T., Feb. 11 (S. O. 18, Feb. 5, D. C.)

**3RD INFANTRY**, Colonel De L. Floyd-Jones.—Headquarters and C. E. F. G. Fort Shaw, M. T.; A. Fort Benton, M. T.; K. Fort Logan, M. T.; B. D. H. I. Missoula City, M. T.

**4TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Franklin F. Flint.—Headquarters and B. C. F. G. Fort Sanders, Wy. T.; E. H. Fort Fred Steele, Wy. T.; A. Ft. Fetterman, Wy. T.; D. K. Fort Laramie, Wy. T.; I. Ft. D. Russell, Wy. T.

**Detached Service.**—2d Lieut. Charles W. Mason will report to the C. O. Camp at Cheyenne Depot for temporary G. C.-M. duty (S. O. 17, Feb. 17, D. P.)

**5TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Nelson A. Miles.—Headquarters and A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. K. Ft. Keogh, M. T.

**Lieut. McDermott.**—A bill (H. R. 1860) which passed the House Feb. 7 gives 1st Lieut. Geo. McDermott pay for services as 2d Lieutenant, from Jan. 5, 1862 to Oct. 1, 1862, under the orders of Gen. Canby.

**6TH INFANTRY**, Colonel William B. Hazen.—Headquarters and C. D. E. F. G. I. Fort Buford, D. T.; A. B. Fort Abraham Lincoln, D. T.; H. E. Fort Stevenson, D. T.

**Leave of Absence.**—One year, on Surg. certificate, Capt. D. Mortimer Lee (S. O. Feb. 21, W. D.)

**7TH INFANTRY**, Col. John Gibbon.—Headquarters, and B. C. E. F. H. E. Fort Snell, Minn.; A. I. Fort Shaw, M. T.; G. Fort Ellis, M. T.; D. Fort Logan, M. T.

**8TH INFANTRY**, Col. August V. Kautz.—Headquarters and A. H. K. B. C. B. B. Cal.; C. Camp McDermit, Nev.; D. Camp Bidwell, Cal.; E. Camp Gaston, Cal.; F. Camp Mojave, A. T.; G. Camp Hallieck, Nev.; I. San Diego, Cal.; B. Fort Yuma, Cal.

**9TH INFANTRY**, Col. John H. King.—Headquarters and G. H. F. K. Fort Omaha, Neb.; A. D. F. K. Fort McKinney, Wy. T.; I. Fort McPherson, Neb.; E. Camp at Cheyenne Depot, Wy. T.; B. Fort Sidney, Neb.; C. Fort Hartman, Neb.

**Retired.**—2d Lieut. George Palmer is relieved from duty as member of the Board of Survey, convened at Cheyenne Depot, W. T., by pars. 1 and 2, S. O. 109, series of 1878, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 17, Feb. 17, D. P.)

**10TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Henry B. Clitz.—Headquarters and A. B. C. F. I. Fort McKavett, Texas; D. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; E. Fort Griffin, Tex.; G. H. K. Fort Clark, Tex.

**11TH INFANTRY**, Colonel William H. Wood.—Headquarters and D. E. G. I. K. Fort Bennett, D. T.; B. C. F. H. F. Custer, M. T.; A. Fort Sully, D. T.

**12TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Orlando B. Wilcox.—Headquarters and A. F. Fort Whipple, A. T.; B. K. Camp Verde, A. T.; C. D. Camp Apache, A. T.; E. Fort Supply, A. T.; G. Camp McDowell, A. T.; H. Camp Thomas, A. T.; I. Camp Grant, A. T.

**Detached Service.**—Capt. J. M. Norvell will proceed

on public business via Fort Yuma, Cal., to such points in Southern California, as the verbal instructions of this date, from the Department Commander, may require (S. O. 19, Jan. 28, D. A.)

2d Lieut. W. L. Geary will report to the C. O. Camp Thomas, A. T., for court-martial duty, upon completion of which he will return to Camp Grant, A. T. (S. O. 15, Feb. 8, D. A.)

**13TH INFANTRY**, Colonel P. R. de Trobriand.—Headquarters and A. D. H. I. Jackson Bks, La.; B. F. K. Baton Rouge Bks, La.; C. G. Mount Vernon, Ala.; D. Little Rock Bks, Ark.

**Leave Extended.**—Capt. P. H. Ellis, further extended to include the 24<sup>th</sup> inst. (S. O. 33, Feb. 20, D. S.)

Capt. P. H. Ellis, Jackson Bks, La., further extended to include the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. (S. O. 34, Feb. 24, D. S.)

**Lieut. Hall.**—2d Lieut. Charles S. Hall, 13th Infantry, having reported for duty with his company on his return from detached service, it affords great pleasure to the Colonel Commanding to welcome him back, and to congratulate him upon his noble conduct and important services last summer, during the disastrous epidemic which carried death and desolation along the Mississippi River. After tendering voluntarily his cooperation to the dangerous undertaking of carrying supplies of all sorts on a steamboat chartered especially for that purpose—and of distributing them at the points where the yellow fever was most fatal and caused the greatest destitution and suffering—Lieut. Hall, by the death of Lieut. H. Benner, 18th Infantry,

found himself in command of the expedition with all its dangers and responsibilities. He faced both with a brave heart and an intelligent determination, and fulfilled his perilous mission in a manner worthy of praise and admiration. Such a noble achievement does great honor to this young officer, and reflects credit upon the Regiment to which he belongs. It deserves special acknowledgment which the Colonel Commanding is happy to tender to 2d Lieut. Charles S. Hall, with his thanks and those of all the officers of the 13th U. S. Infantry (G. O. 8, Feb. 1, Hdqrs, 13th Inf.)

**14TH INFANTRY**, Col. John E. Smith.—Headquarters and D. E. F. H. I. K. Fort Douglas, Utah; A. Fort Hall, Idaho; B. C. G. Fort Cameron, U. T.

**Rejoin.**—1st Lieut. Frank Taylor will return to his proper station (S. O. Feb. 25, W. D.)

**15TH INFANTRY**, Col. Geo. A. Woodward.—Headquarters and D. H. F. Wingate, N. M.; B. Ft. Garland, C. T.; F. Ft. Union, N. M.; E. Fort Bayard, N. M.; C. Fort Stanton, N. M.; I. Fort Lewis, Colo.; A. G. Fort Bliss, Tex.; H. Fort Marcy, N. M.

**16TH INFANTRY**, Colonel G. Pennypacker.—Headqrs, A. C. H. Fort Riley, Kas.; B. I. Fort Riley, Ind. T.; B. D. Fort Sill, Ind. T.; K. Fort Gibson, Ind. T.; F. G. Ft. Wallace, Kas.

**Detached Service.**—The journey performed by 1st Lieut. H. C. Ward, R. Q. M., from Fort Riley, Kas., to Fort Harker, Kas., and return thence, for the purpose of investigating the reported unauthorized occupation of public buildings at that point, and the journey performed by Col. G. Pennypacker from Fort Riley, Kas., to Fort Harker, Kas., on the 11th inst., and return thence on the 13th inst., for the purpose of inspecting the public property at that point, are approved (S. O. 34, Feb. 18, D. M.)

Capt. C. E. Morse, Clayton Hale, 1st Lieuts. W. W. Barrett, W. H. Vinal, F. Rosencrantz, 2d Lieuts. Eugene Cushman, R. R. Steedman, members, and 2d Lieut. I. O. Shelby, J. A. of G. C.-M. Fort Riley, Kas., Feb. 24 (S. O. 35, Feb. 19, D. M.)

Lieut.-Col. James Van Voast will repair to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., from Fort Wallace, Kas., in time to be present at a called session of the Retiring Board, constituted by par. 6, S. O. 23, and par. 1, S. O. 31, H. Q. A., of which he is a member (S. O. 36, Feb. 20, D. M.)

**Relieved.**—Col. G. Pennypacker is relieved from the detail as member G. C.-M. constituted by par. 2, S. O. 32, from these Hdqrs (S. O. 37, Feb. 21, D. M.)

**17TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Thomas L. Crittenden.—Headquarters and C. Fort Totten, D. T.; B. D. H. I. Fort Yates, D. T.; G. Fort A. Lincoln, D. T.; A. F. Fort Sisseton, D. T.; E. K. Fort Pembina, D. T.

**Detached Service.**—Major Robert E. A. Crofton, Capt. Malcolm McArthur, 1st Lieut. Frank D. Garretty, 2d Lieut. Jas. D. Nickerson, members, G. C.-M. Fort Totten, D. T., March 5 (S. O. 19, Feb. 17, D. D.)

**18TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Thomas H. Ruger.—Headquarters and B. H. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; E. K. Fort Lyon, Tex.; D. F. G. Fort Dodge, Kas.; A. C. I. Fort Elliott, Tex.

**Detached Service.**—Capt. J. H. Smith will repair to Fort Leavenworth, Kas., from Fort Dodge, Kas., on public business (S. O. 33, Feb. 17, D. M.)

**19TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Charles H. Smith.—Headquarters and B. H. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; E. K. Fort Lyon, Tex.; D. F. G. Fort Dodge, Kas.; A. C. I. Fort Elliott, Tex.

**Detached Service.**—Major Robert E. A. Crofton, Capt. Malcolm McArthur, 1st Lieut. Frank D. Garretty, 2d Lieut. Jas. D. Nickerson, members, G. C.-M. Fort Totten, D. T., March 5 (S. O. 19, Feb. 17, D. D.)

**20TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Geo. Sykes.—Headquarters and B. D. G. I. K. Fort Brown, Tex.; A. San Antonio, Tex.; C. E. F. H. Fort Clark, Tex.

**21ST INFANTRY**, Colonel Alfred Sully.—Headquarters and D. G. K. Fort Vancouver, Wash. T.; A. Fort Boise, Ind. T.; H. Camp Harney, Or.; F. Fort Klamath, Or.; C. Fort Lapwai, Idaho T.; B. E. Fort Townsend, Wash. T.; I. Fort Custer, Wash. T.

**Detached Service.**—1st Lieut. Daniel Cormier, Fort Vancouver, W. T., will proceed to Portland, Ore., and return, on public business (S. O. 12, Feb. 3, D. C.)

The journeys performed by Lieut. Col. Alexander Chambers from Portland, Ore., to Fort Townsend, W. T., on the 30th ultimo, and from Fort Townsend, W. T., to Portland, Ore., on the 21st inst., are authorized (S. O. 11, Jan. 31, D. C.)

Lieut.-Col. Alexander Chambers, Capts. Evan Miles, William F. Spurgin, 2d Lieut. Edward S. Farrow, members, and 2d Lieut. Harry L. Bailey, J. A. of G. C.-M. Fort Townsend, Wash. T., Feb. 11 (S. O. 13, Feb. 5, D. C.)

**22ND INFANTRY**, Colonel David S. Stanley.—Headquarters and B. G. Fort Porter, N. Y.; A. C. H. Fort Wayne, Mich.; F. K. Fort Brady, Mich.; D. E. Fort Mackinac, Mich.; L. Fort Gratiot, Mich.

**Leave of Absence.**—One month, 1st Lieut. Benjamin

C. Lockwood, Fort Porter, N. Y. (S. O. 29, Feb. 24, D. E.)

**Leave Extended.**—2d Lieut. John M. Gore, one day (S. O. 26, Feb. 18, D. E.)

**23RD INFANTRY**, Colonel Jeff. C. Davis.—Headquarters and B. E. F. H. Fort Supply, Ind. T.; I. Fort Leavenworth, Kas.; A. C. D. G. K. North Fork of the Canadian.

**Detached Service.**—Major A. J. Dallas is detailed a member G. C.-M. constituted by par. 2, S. O. 33, from these Hdqrs, to meet at Fort Supply, I. T., on the 10th proximo (S. O. 37, Feb. 21, D. M.)

**Leave Extended.**—Capt. J. J. Coppering, three months, on Surg. certificate (S. O. Feb. 21, W. D.)

**24TH INFANTRY**, Colonel Joseph H. Potter.—Headquarters and A. B. F. H. Fort Duncan, Tex.; D. E. H. Fort McIntosh, Tex.; C. G. I. K. Fort Ringgold, Tex.

**25TH INFANTRY**, Colonel George L. Andrews.—Headquarters and E. H. I. Fort Davis, Tex.; C. D. F. Fort Stockton, Tex.; B. San Felipe, Tex.; A. G. K. Ft Concho, Tex.

**Detached Service.**—Capts. C. F. Robe, Andrew Geddes, 1st Lieut. O. J. Sweet, 2d Lieut. E. F. Glenn, members, and 1st Lieut. H. B. Quimby, J. A. of G. C.-M. Fort Stockton, Tex., Feb. 24 (S. O. 33, Feb. 15, D. T.)

1st Lieut. David B. Wilson will report to the Supt. Mounted Recruiting Service to accompany recruits to the Dept. of Texas. On the completion of this duty he will join his regiment (S. O. Feb. 25, W. D.)

*Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, February 23, 1879.*

2d Lieut. Nathaniel F. Cunningham, 8th Inf.—Dismissed Feb. 20, 1879.

2d Lieut. Harry Tiffany, 11th Inf.—Dropped Feb. 11, 1879.

**Note.**—No Circular was issued for the week ending Feb. 15, 1879.

**Military Reservation.**—By direction of the President of the United States a Military Reservation is hereby declared in the vicinity of Pagosa Springs, Colo., to be known as the United States Military Reservation at Fort Lewis, Colo. (Description omitted.) (G. O. 2, Feb. 17, D. M.)

**Fort Union, N. M.**—In a report to the Senate from the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Jan. 23d, the history of Fort Union Military Reservation is given, and it is recommended that a complete title to the lands be secured by issuing to the owners thereof certificates for an equal quantity of unappropriated public lands not to exceed 65,000 acres.

**Target Practice.**—From Reports of Target Practice received at Headquarters Division Pacific for December, 1878, the following extracts are taken:

1st Regiment of Cavalry.—Co. A, av. score: 38.6 per cent. at 100 yards, 49.2 at 200, 32.8 at 300. Three best shots: Trumpeter P. Swartz, Wm. Draper, Geo. T. Owen, each 56 per cent. at 300 yards. Co. B, av. score: 46.4 per cent. at 150 yards, 59 at 300. Three best shots: Wm. White, 51 per cent. at 300 yards; C. T. Schlier, 76. K. O. Grabow, 75. Co. C, av. score: 45.86 per cent. at 100 yards; 46.68 at 200. Three best shots: Liun Ross, 68 per cent. at 300 yards; G. F. Willard, 67; C. Duffy, 61. Co. G, av. score: 52 per cent. at 100 yards, 43 at 200. Three best shots: E. Deyer, 84 per cent. at 200 yards; The Corp. F. Perry, 1st Sgt. T. Kelly, Blacksmith W. Marshal, C. E. Bentley, 76; James McFertry, 74. Co. I, av. score: 55 per cent. at 300 yards. Three best shots: M. Haliman, 66 per cent. at 200 yards; John Lynch, 65; R. Maher, 66. Co. K, av. score: 63.36 per cent. at 100 yards; 49.30 at 200. Three best shots: Wm. J. Crane, 78 per cent. at 200 yards; C. T. Schlier, 72; Tie, 1st Sgt. C. Taylor, F. Murasaki, 64. Co. M, av. score: 78 per cent. at 100 yards; 60 at 150; 58 at 200. Three best shots: J. B. Houff, 74.3 per cent. at 200 yards; E. Eaton, 68; J. Quinn, 67.3.

4th Regiment of Artillery.—Co. C, av. score: 60 per cent. at 100 yards, 62.12 at 200. Three best shots: Cap. H. C. Cushing, 79 per cent. at 200 yards; Lieut. J. E. Bloom, 76; 1st Sgt. H. Lowry, 78. Co. E, av. score: 40.75 per cent. at 200 yards; 37.14 at 300. Three best shots: A. Briggs, 60 per cent. at 500 yards; J. H. Johnson, 52; Corp. W. R. Keo, 48. Co. H, av. score: 41.2 per cent. at 100 yards; 51.2 at 200; 33 at 300. Three best shots: 1st Lieut. H. A. Ande, 63.1 per cent. at 500 yards; Corp. A. Poncet, 49.6; 1st Sgt. John French, 48. Co. I, av. score: 59.54 per cent. at 200 yards. Three best shots: 1st Sgt. J. W. Hull, 59 per cent. at 300 yards; Wm. Barj, 53.5; Gov. M. Holt, 56.5. Co. M, av. score: 55.50 per cent. at 100 yards; 51.13 at 200. Three best shots: 1st Sgt. George Warren, 70.5 per cent. at 200 yards; Wm. J. Hogan, 64.5; Corp. George Brown, 63. 2d Regiment of Infantry.—Co. D, av. score: 64 per cent. at 100 yards; 30 at 200; 32 at 300; 34 at 400; 24.74 at 600; 18 at 700. Three best shots: Corp. W. R. Steele, 18 per cent. at 700 yards; H. J. Fisher, 44 at 600; Patrick Holan, 38 at 600. Co. F, av. score: 58 per cent. at 100 yards; 45 at 200; 47.66 at 300. Three best shots: Frank Smith, 64 per cent. at 300 yards; H. Moloney, 55; J. A. Hall, 56.

8th Regiment of Infantry.—Co. C, av. score: 30.6 per cent. at 200 yards; 3.36 best shots, F. McWhain, 78 per cent. at 200 yards; J. McElroy, 64; J. Donahue, 60. Co. E, av. score: 57 per cent. at 100 yards. Three best shots: Charles Bernard, 83 per cent. at 100 yards; C. Rowan, 83; Tie, H. W. Combs, Corp. F. McWhain, 80. Co. G, av. score: 33.33 per cent. at 100 yards; 41.85 at 200; 33.33 at 300. Three best shots: M. J. McGinn, 65.3 per cent. at 200 yards; R. E. Warford, 62.7; J. A. White, 61. Co. H, av. score: 58.56 per cent. at 100 yards; 47.4 at 200. Three best shots: Corp. J. Ryan, 66 per cent. at 200 yards; A. Newland, 65; Corp. H. S. Ave, 63.

21st Regiment of Infantry.—Co. A, av. score: 57.6 per cent. at 100 yards; 51.6 at 200. Three best shots: Corp. J. McNamara, 76; Tie, Corp. J. McElroy, 64; Corp. J. Donahue, 60. Co. B, av. score: 57 per cent. at 200 yards; Corp. J. W. S. Martin, 76; Tie, Corp. Wm. Brown, Corp. T. McCarthy, 72. Co. C, av. score: 57.56 per cent. at 100 yards; 41.36 at 200; 40 at 300. Three best shots: Corp. J. Ailey, 59 per cent. at 300 yards; H. B. Ziehl, 52; D. H. Limer, 50. Co. C, av. score: 35 per cent. at 200 yards; 29.4 at 300. Three best shots: Corp. J. W. Stave, 60; Corp. F. McWhain, 58 per cent. at 100 yards; 47.01 per cent. at 100 yards. Three best shots: Corp. N. Campton, 45; John Wain, 6. Co. E, av. score, 47.01 per cent. at 100 yards. Three best shots: F. McWhain, 56 per cent. at 100 yards; J. H. King, 50; P. Larv, 73. Co. H, av. score: 44.98 per cent. at 100 yards; 46.38 at 200; 45.04 at 300. Three best shots: Corp. J. Jones, 64 per cent. at 300 yards; Patrick Sheridan, 60; Corp. G. M. Gilmore, 54.

Reports of other Companies of the Division have either not

8th Infantry: 1st Sergt. Edward Davis, Co. F. 18th Infantry: 1st Sergt. Daniel Donovan, Co. G.  
In Each Company—6th Cavalry: Co. B, Priv. Charles H. Allen, at 200 yards, 16 out of a possible 25; Co. C, Sergt. John Swain, at 200 yards, 38 out of a possible 60; Co. G, 1st Sergt. Louis C. Hartman, at 200 yards, 21 out of a possible 30; Co. H, Priv. John C. Butler, at 100 yards, 169 out of a possible 300; Co. I, Priv. Anthony Metz, at 500 yards, 14 out of a possible 50; Co. L, Corr. Daniel G. Harvey, at 400 yards, 104 out of a possible 150; Co. M, Priv. J. J. Keeper, at 200 yards, 16 out of a possible 25; 8th Infantry: Co. B, Priv. A. Andrews, at 200 yards, 47 out of a possible 200; Co. F, 1st Sergt. Edward Davis, at 200 yards, 140 out of a possible 100; 12th Infantry, score out of a possible 100: Co. A, Priv. Frank Lehne, at 250 yards, 58; Co. B, Sergt. D. Kearney, at 200 yards, 70; Co. D, Priv. E. Altman, at 200 yards, 67; Co. F, Sergt. T. O'Mara, at 250 yards, 68; Co. G, 1st Sergt. Daniel Donovan, at 500 yards, 49; Co. K, Priv. Oliver Collinson, at 400 yards, 61. Out of a possible 300: Co. C, Priv. William Welsh, at 400 yards, 123. Out of a possible 50: Co. I, 1st Sergt. Martin Kenney, at 200 yards, 34. (G. O. 5, Feb. 8, D. A.)

## INDIANS.

A despatch from San Francisco, Feb. 24, says: "Lieutenant Wood, of General Howard's staff, reports that he has delivered to Chief Moses the intelligence from the Interior Department that he cannot have the reservation he asked for last fall through General Howard. Moses expressed great disappointment at the denial of his request, but said that he would try to persuade his people to do the next best thing the Government would allow, but could not vouch for the manner in which they would receive such bad news."

Various reports of Indian depredations come by telegraph from Dakota. One despatch, dated Deadwood, D. T., Feb. 24, says: "A party of Indians have coralled two freight trains on the Fort Pierre road, forty miles from here. The freighters are hemmed in in a narrow gulch and the Indians are firing on them from the overhanging cliffs. Two companies of the 7th Cavalry, commanded by Captain French, have gone to the rescue. Citizens are turning out from Rapid City and the surrounding country in large numbers. Six whites have been killed in this vicinity within a week past." The general opinion is that the depredations were committed by Little Wolf's band of Cheyennes, which is making its way to Sitting Bull's camp.

From Camp Sheridan, Neb., Feb. 7, 1879, a correspondent writes us as follows:

In the New York *Herald* of Jan. 25, an account is published of the battle of Bluff Station, A. T., sent to the *Herald* from Fort Robinson, Neb., by one James R. O'Bierne. The article as published has some reflections upon the Army and the officers engaged in the Cheyenne affair at Fort Robinson, which may be taken as true if left unnoticed. I write to you to say that this man O'Bierne is an employee of the Indian Department, and naturally prejudiced against the Army. When the Cheyenne Indians first broke out at Fort Robinson there was a little uneasiness among the Sioux at the Pine Ridge Agency. O'Bierne became so frightened that he ran away and went to Fort Robinson, scattering all kinds of reports through the country while en route. He remained at Robinson for upwards of three weeks, writing all kinds of villainous despatches. In the article above referred to, he has it stated "In the Field," when the fact is he never left the post until ordered to by the post trader, whose guess he was at the time. He denied when called upon by the officers that he ever wrote the articles reflecting upon the Army; he tried to lay the blame upon an innocent party, a Mr. Brainerd, editor of a Sidney, Nebraska, paper. He was called upon by the Recorder of the board of officers in session at Fort Robinson, investigating the cause of the Cheyenne outbreak, for his authority for making his statements, when he informed the Recorder that he received his information from some of the enlisted men of the garrison, who they were he did not know. Would it not be well to have this matter of his investigated a little, to see by what authority this man absented himself from the agency, and if he received pay for the time he was so absent.

## GEN. BURNSIDE IN HIS OWN DEFENCE.

In the debate on the Army Appropriation Bill in the Senate, Feb. 23d, Gen. Burnside said:

If the Senate undertakes a discussion of this bill with a view to laying aside the report of the joint committee on reorganization, or rather with a view of treating the subject without reference to the opinions of the joint committee, and at the direction of staff officers in Washington, no conclusion can be reached.

At the beginning of my work upon this bill I found myself examining the Army Register, not with a view of so to work as to benefit any special person, but with a view of seeing exactly what effect my work would have on certain officers of the Army, and I found it necessary, in order to work without prejudice, to cast the Army Register aside and under no circumstances to allow my mind to rest upon it; and my associates on the committee I am satisfied did the same.

The committee, as the Senator has stated, have worked faithfully in this matter. You may raise a more intelligent committee, but not one that will give the subject more time and attention. At an early day in this session it made a report to the S. N. At the expense of repeating what I said yesterday, I will say that it has been within the power of the Senate from the day that report was made to this time to refer it to the Military Committee of the Senate for its consideration, as suggested by the Senator from Delaware, (Mr. Saulsbury). There has been no moment when the bill accompanying the report could not have been referred to the Military Committee of the Senate. No Senator that I remember asked that it should be referred, but now, in the last eight days of the session, when we ask action upon the reorganization part of the bill, Senators complain that it has not been referred to that committee.

The Senator from California says the bill strips the staff of its old officers and supplies their places by new ones. Although he did not mean to make an incorrect statement, this one is incorrect. We do not strip the staff of its old officers, and I will show it. For instance, section 4 provides:

"That the general staff of the Army shall consist of one Adjutant-General with the rank of brigadier-general; three colonels; six lieutenant-colonels; eight majors."

This would leave in the bureaus of the general staff eighteen officers, who are there now, and the bill leaves in every other staff bureau a certain number of its old officers. It provides that the junior officers in the staff, in other words, that officers below the rank of major, shall be made to interchange with other officers of the Army. It does not necessarily put these junior officers out of the staff unless under the reorganization they are found to be inefficient, but it transfers them to other corps. Therefore the Senator is wrong in making the statement that we strip the staff bureau of all their old officers.

There has been a hue and cry against this bill from the very moment it was reported. Where has that cry come from? Much of it from the staff bureaus of the Army. I surely have no disposition to injure the staff officers; on the contrary I have a great desire to benefit them, as well as other officers of the Army. I know of no officer to whom I would not rather do a personal service than to do harm; but I must say that some of these officers have gone beyond the line of duty, particularly in one of the staff bureaus in Washington, which has almost turned itself into a bureau of newspaper correspondence. Articles investigated by them go all over this country. Not satisfied with attacking the bill, these articles make personal attacks upon me

as the originator of the bill. I receive papers containing these attacks in great numbers.

I will read an extract from an editorial which contains a paragraph in quotation marks, sent from here:

"Burnside is a Republican Senator from Rhode Island. Burnside is the principal owner of one of the most extensive arms and tool manufacturers in the United States. Burnside has lately introduced a bill into the Senate for the 'reorganization of the Army.' In this bill is a little, seemingly harmless, two-line section, which provides for the abolishing the manufacture of arms by the Government at the Government arsenals and requiring that all arms and ordnance be purchased by contract of private manufacturers.

"If this bill passes won't Senator A. B. Burnside and his 'wicked partners' have a 'soft thing' on the Government? The extensive Government works at Springfield, Massachusetts, would have to be sold for a song, bought in by Burnside. The vast works just completed at Rock Island, Illinois, would also be rendered useless, sold for a song, and bought in by some members of the 'ring' now lobbying the Burnside Army bill through Congress. Thus, by the use of his position as a Senator, Burnside, if this bill passes, can législate a million dollars into his pocket."

"The man who will use his position as a Senator or a Representative to legislate money or profit into his own pocket is a thief! There is no other term that can correctly express or describe his character. In this bill, Burnside is deliberately and intentionally seeking to legislate for his own private interest and profit, and against public interest and public policy. A man who will do that is not only a thief, but he is a traitor. And every member of Congress who voted for Burnside's Army bill is equally a thief and a traitor with him."

"During my service as a young officer in Mexico, and for three or four years on the plains after the Mexican war, I had opportunities to discover that the military arms then used were of a very inefficient character, and I thought we ought to have better ones. I gave much attention to the subject, and in 1853 began the service for the purpose of manufacturing arms."

"I continued in that work for five of the best years of my life, and during that time invented a breech-loading rifle, a number of which were made and used in the service. In 1858 I failed in manufacturing for the reason that money went out faster than it came in. The works were turned over to another company, and I was left \$8,000 in debt, which debt, I am glad to say, I was able, through good fortune and good friends, to pay. Then I quite the arms-manufacturing business, and have not been engaged in it from that day to this; and I have never allowed myself to express opinions or write letters touching the merits of the various competing arms. I was compelled to use them as a soldier; but that was not because I wanted to do it.

"I would have been very glad not to have ceased using them or directing their use if my duty had allowed me. I have no love for arms or their manufacture, and have never owned a share of stock in an arms-manufacturing establishment since 1858. The Providence Tool Company, of Providence, which it is said I am interested in, manufactures a large number of rifles. Its stockholders are among the very best men in our State. They are my neighbors, friends, and associates; but I could not tell you to-day what their relative interests are in that concern. Except to go into the office one day to see a patented arm they were making for the Turkish government I believe I have never been in the building, and since taking my seat here have studiously kept away from it."

Mr. President, I hope this will answer the statements referred to; and to the newspaper reporters who have been circulating these statements with so much apparent gusto (I do not know whether they have really done it with pleasure, but still they have done it very effectively), will evince the same amount of industry in circulating the denial of them, probably the little wrong to me may be done away with. If these reports had only reached my own State I would not have cared to call attention to them, because my people know them to be wrong, but they go all over this country.

The people desire that their representatives shall stand before the whole country men of honor, who exercise honest efforts in the discharge of their duties. I have for a colleague on this floor an honorable Senator who has passed more consecutive years here than any other Senator, to whom they point with pride, and it is my aim to imitate his example in integrity of purpose.

Mr. Anthony—If my colleague will allow me to interrupt him for a moment, I will say a single word. I am sure that no statement he makes of his personal knowledge requires any confirmation in this Chamber or out of it; but it happens to be within my own knowledge that when the Burnside Rifle Company was formed, which took its name after it was formed and had obtained profitable contracts from the Government, my colleague was offered stock in it at a low price upon a rising market, and he positively declined, being then in the military service of the Government, and holding that no officer in the military or civil service of the Government should be interested in any concern which made contracts with the Government. I also know that my colleague never went into that establishment so long as it continued to manufacture arms, and I do not know that he has ever been in it since.

Mr. Burnside—I am very much obliged to my colleague. I did not intend to go so fully into this personal matter, but simply to revert to it to remove the impression which rests upon the minds of a great many people that I am interested in the manufacture of arms. General Sherman told me that he had been questioned as to whether or not I was interested in the manufacture of arms.

As to the proper time for the consideration of this bill, I will only say that in my opinion you will have no more time to reorganize the Army next session than you have now, and when it is approached it will be in precisely the same way that it is now approached, and Senators will make up their minds in a large degree from the statements and opinions of persons versed in military affairs.

**EX PARTE AFFIDAVITS.**—The following observations of the J. A. General are published in G. C. M. O. 9, dismissing 2d Lieut. N. F. Cunningham:

The case of a deposition addressed to one party being answered by another has few precedents—certainly no precedent is known for the admission of such a paper as evidence before a judicial tribunal; and notwithstanding the appeal by the reviewing authority of the decision in favor of its legality, I am constrained to advise that its admission was an error which destroys the validity of the findings under the additional charge. The document admitted by the deposition of Brown was, under the circumstances, a mere *ex parte* affidavit, of the taking of which the accused had no notice, and to which he was not given the opportunity, to which he had a clear right, of annexing cross interrogatories. The deposition of Thornton, of which he had no notice, has never been taken. Certain statements, under oath, of one Brown are substituted in its stead, but these are of no legal validity, and were inadmissible as evidence.

Brown swore that Thornton, to whom the deposition was addressed, was merely his agent in the transaction.

By direction of the Secretary of War, the sentence in the case of 2d Lieut. Nathaniel F. Cunningham, 8th Infantry, will take effect Feb. 20, 1879, from which date he will cease to be an officer of the Army.

IRON turns for a moment from its study of minerals and machinery to declare that "admiration of Greek life in a shambles, like that expressed for the Republics of medieval Italy. Both are part of the prevailing cant about the refining influence of art upon morals—the latest windbag of shallow theorists. Art has nothing to do with morals whatever; the proof thereof being that the palmy period of art in Greece was the most corrupt in every social and political sense; while the splendid art period of the Italian and French Renaissance was conspicuous for the absence of every sentiment of honor, honesty, and common fair play."

## "RELIGION IN THE ARMY."

A very interesting paper "on the subject of 'Religion in the Army,'" was read by the Reverend B. T. Hutchins before the Michigan semi-annual missionary meeting. Mr. Hutchins, who was formerly a captain in the 6th United States Cavalry, resigned from the Service in September, 1869, to enter the ministry. The reverend gentleman is, therefore, well qualified to speak on the subject. He commences by advertizing to the fact that the spiritual care of our little Army of 25,000 souls, scattered from Maine to Oregon, and from Key West to the Rio Grande, is committed to the care of a few chaplains appointed by the President, and that the church is apparently well satisfied with such guardianship, as it seldom, if ever, inquires further into the matter. To the question "Is there a religious life in the Army?" he unhesitatingly answers, yes, and that such a life has always been seen among all armies of every nation and throughout all ages, citing the examples of the scripture heroes Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, Jonathan, and David; and those in more modern days of Constantine, Louis the IX., Cameron, the brave Covenanter, Gaspard de Coligny, Havelock, Gardiner, and our own Washington. "And then, again, in the late unhappy strife between North and South, thousands of brave soldiers who wore the blue and the gray were true, loyal soldiers of Jesus Christ."

The reverend gentleman then shows that to be successful in life's work, man must have the soldier's element of courage to face every opportunity and advantage which meets him. So that if "the professed Christian is not found more frequently in the ranks of our Army, we must admit that it is for some other reason than because the moral nature of the soldier is lacking; for these elements are not found in the coward, in the thief, the liar or the murderer." A glowing tribute is paid to the brave Parsons who "doffed the red plume of the artillery officer, and robed him in the surplice and stole of the parish priest," and who worked in the thickest of the recent terrible scourge at the South until he sickened and died in the midst of his patient and heroic work. The gallant Banner also is mentioned, whose self-sacrifice during the same period is still so fresh in our memories, and the question is asked, "Is there not a calm, holy religion in such examples as these?"

The chaplains at present in the Army are described as many of them lacking proper qualifications for their office; some of them, with the best of intentions sympathizing with complaining soldiers to the extent of interfering with discipline, others trusting to the political influence which appointed them to protect them in disregarding the wishes of post commanders. "And still again, the office of chaplain is for life, with a good social position, with excellent pecuniary reward for their not very laborious services, and thus chaplains often lapse into an indolent, aimless life, preferring their books to the scout, and their ease to the active campaign. Now when this is seen, the chaplain's influence soon wanes, and the officers and enlisted men who are accustomed to a little self-denial and hardship, and who are familiar with everything which belongs to a strong, active life, begin to feel that the chaplain cares more for himself than he does for the soldier's progressive religious life."

The question is then asked, "Does the religious life of the Army increase?" and the answer is in the affirmative. The causes for its advancement are stated to be "(1) through the personal influence of the Christian officer, (2) through the moral lessons of the Christian soldier; and last but not least, through the holy example and every day teaching of the officer's Christian wife. I have myself seen the Christian wife of an officer on the remotest frontier of Texas assemble soldiers, half breed Indians, laundresses, children, and an occasional 'cow driver,' at her log house, and there teach them the blessed truths of the gospel with as much love and earnestness as I have ever seen exhibited by the most eloquent of our clergy. Not only this, but visit the hospitals of some of these far off stations and watch the devotion of the officer's Christian wife as she sits, hour after hour, each day, by the bedside of the sick soldier, bathing his fevered temples, talking to him of home, reading to him from God's word, comforting him with her kind words of advice or by repeating two or three of our sweet collects."

Numerous instances are given which clearly prove that religion is not by any means the dead letter in our Army, it is generally supposed to be, but our space will not permit their insertion.

Enough may have been given to illustrate the fact that there is as much religious sentiment in the Army as there is out of it. The paper concludes with the reverend gentleman's views as to how the religious life of the Army can be increased. He says:

In the first place I would have the number of our chaplains largely increased, and secondly, none should be appointed to this holy life service who is over 30 years of age at the time this life commission is given him; these should pass a critical physical as well as intellectual examination by a competent board of examiners. These chaplains should be selected with the greatest care. They should be beyond suspicion as regards their morality and sanctity; they should be of refined habits in their social life; they should be hardy enough to endure the severest privations which are incident to a soldier's life; and they should be of that nature and temperament which calculates to win the heart of a brave soldier. And especially should the chaplain understand his position, and what discipline really means. With such a corps of chaplains immensity work could be accomplished.

A strong appeal is made to his brethren of the ministry to be up and doing in this matter; and to further by every available means real missionary work in the Army. "Rest assured," says he, "if the right men, holy in acts as well as words; active and willing to perform their prescribed duties; always proving true to his grand insignia of rank in his life, as well as in his 'lip service.' I say rest assured, such a band of men would be welcomed by as brave, and good and true hearts as beat in all the land."

## CONGRESS.

Both Houses of Congress have passed the bill, (H. R. No. 305), to promote a knowledge of steam engineering and iron-ship building among the students of scientific schools or colleges in the United States.

The Senate has passed the following bills: S. 1721, for the relief of the sufferers by the explosion at Braddock's Pa. arsenal, Aug. 7, 1875; S. 1543, for the relief of Paymaster John Scott Canning, U. S. Navy; S. 1611, authorizing the appointment of Wm. English a 2d lieutenant U. S. Army; S. 1635, to appoint Sprague Braden an ensign in the Navy.

The House has passed the following bills: H. R. 6511, to pay the widow of Major Lyman M. Kellogg, late U. S. Army, the amount due him while suffering from an illegal dismissal; S. 1395, to place Louis Leffman, Ordnance Sergeant, U. S. Army on the retired list; S. 793, to reappoint Edwin R. Clarke, 2d Lieutenant in the 10th Infantry, of the grade and rank held by him July 12, 1875; H. R. 4408, to reappoint and place on the retired list T. H. Carpenter, late Captain, 17th Infantry; H. R. 3635, relating to soldiers while in the civil service of the U. S.; H. R. 5050, authorizing the settlement of the accounts of A. A. Paymaster Edw. K. Winship, U. S. N.

Feb. 24th Mr. Bayne introduced in the House a joint resolution (H. R. No. 242) instructing the Secretary of War to discontinue the conversion of smooth-bore into muzzle-loading rifles, and the fabrication of new guns; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs; and the following communications have been laid before the Senate: Letter of Major B. C. Card, Q. M. Department, in answer to Major Bates; asking an appropriation of \$140,000 for buildings, machinery, etc., at David's Island; asking \$45,000 for Emery's machine for testing iron steel, etc.; a letter from the P. M. General asking an appropriation for pay of certain professors at the Military Academy for 1878, 1879, and 1880; and letter from J. F. Huston, 1st Lieutenant 30th Infantry, relative to losses of members of Co. B, 20th Infantry, by fire at Fort Ripley.

A joint resolution introduced by Representative Jorgensen directs the President to cause an investigation as to the funds belonging to the so-called Confederate States on deposit in the Bank of England or in the hands of private citizens in Great Britain, to the end that it may be refunded and paid to citizens who served as soldiers or colored men who worked on fortifications or served as teamsters in the so-called Confederate armies and who were disabled in such service, and who are now in indigent circumstances and are dependent upon the charity of the community for a living.

The following bills are before Congress:

S. 1710. To replace the name of Laurence A. Williams, late major 6th Cavalry, U. S. Army, upon the list of retired officers of the Army, "with his appropriate rank, namely: that of colonel; the same being that which he would have attained had he not been unjustly deprived of his commission."

S. 1725. Gives the widow of Col. Wm. Dulaney a pension of \$30 a month from the date of her husband's death, July 4, 1868.

S. 1742. Pensions at \$20 a month, Frances McNeil Potter, daughter of the late Gen. John McNeil, U. S. A.

S. 1786. Appropriates \$173,410 to extend Winder's building for the use of the War Department.

S. 1788. To regulate applications for restoration to the active list of the Navy. That all applications of officers of the Navy for restoration to the active list, or for advancement to positions on the active list, and also similar applications on the retired list, as well as pay therein, shall be made to the Secretary of the Navy, who shall thereupon order a board of officers, not below the grade of the applicant, to investigate his case and report thereon; and said report, with the recommendation thereon of the Secretary of the Navy, shall be forwarded to Congress for its action thereon. No such application shall be made except as herein provided.

S. 1818. To promote the efficiency of the Corps of Naval Constructors of the United States Navy. That section 1471, R. S., be so amended as to read as follows: Naval constructors in the Navy shall have relative rank as follows: Four the relative rank of captain; all others that of commander. Assistant naval constructors shall have the relative rank of lieutenant-commander. That section 1492, R. S., be so amended as to read as follows: The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, may appoint naval constructors and assistant naval constructors, who shall have rank and pay as officers of the Navy. That section 1403, R. S., be so amended as to read as follows: Assistant naval constructors must have a practical and theoretical knowledge of their profession. That there shall be no new appointments to the Corps of Naval Constructors until the whole number on the active list of the Navy is reduced to nine; and that the number of assistant naval constructors shall at no time exceed eight.

H. R. 5835. Releasing Charles W. Abbot, a pay director, and W. W. Barry, a passed assistant paymaster, U. S. N., from liability or loss in consequence of the embezzlement of \$2,005.54, by R. J. O'Reilly, a paymaster's clerk in the Navy-yard at Boston.

H. R. 6150. That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized to accept and take charge of, for the use of a North Polar Expedition by way of Behring's Straits, the ship *Jeanette*, owned by James Gordon Bennett, and by him devoted to this purpose; that he may use, in fitting her for her voyage of exploration, any material he may have on hand proper for the purposes of an Arctic voyage; and that he be further authorized to enlist the necessary crew for the said vessel for "special service," their pay to be temporarily met from the pay of the Navy, and to be refunded by James Gordon Bennett to the Navy Department; the vessel to proceed on her voyage of exploration under the orders and instructions of the Navy Department; that the men so "specialy enlisted" as above shall be subject in all respects to the Articles of War and Navy Regulations and discipline; and that all parts of the act approved March 18, 1878, inconsistent with the above be, and they are hereby, repealed.

H. R. 6184. To restore to his former rank and relative grade in the Army Dunbar R. Ransom, late captain 3d Artillery.

H. R. 6185. That section 2305, R. S., be amended so that it will read as follows: Sec. 2305. The time which the homestead settler has served in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect title, or if discharged on account of wounds received or disability incurred in the line of duty, then the term of enlistment shall be deducted from the time heretofore required to perfect title, without reference to the length of time he may have served; and the patent shall issue to such officer, soldier, sailor, or marine at the expiration of five years, including said deduction, the same as though he had resided upon, improved, and cultivated his homestead for the full period of five years.

H. R. 6242. That the act of June 17, 1878, entitled "An act to increase the pensions of certain soldiers and sailors who have lost both their hands or both their feet, or the sight of both eyes, in the service of the country," be so construed that all soldiers and sailors who have become totally blind from causes occurring in the service of the United States shall receive, in lieu of all pensions now paid them by the Government of the United States, and there shall be paid to them in the same manner as pensions are now paid such persons, the sum of \$72 per month.

H. R. 6252. Granting Edward H. Leib, late brevet lieutenant-colonel of the 5th Cavalry, a pension at the rate of \$50 per month.

H. R. 6271. That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay a certain judgment in which Hugh Waters is plaintiff and J. B. Campbell is defendant, obtained in the United States Circuit Court for the district of Oregon, amounting at the time it was rendered to the sum of \$2,100.50; said judgment having been obtained against said J. B. Campbell while acting in the line of his duty as captain of the U. S. Army.

H. R. 6474. In relation to the promotion of officers in the Navy to the grade of rear admiral.

H. R. 6475. In relation to officers of the Navy who have been dismissed from the service by sentence of Court-martial or otherwise.

H. R. 6476. In relation to the promotion of commodores on the retired list of the Navy.

H. R. 6496. For the relief of Joshua N. Danforth, late 2d Lieut. 13th Infantry.

H. R. 6492. Providing for the payment of additional bounty to the soldiers of the Army.

BEFORE the 1st of May Russia will have four powerful cruisers in the North Sea, four other vessels of the same class at the mouth of the Mediterranean, two iron-clads in Greek waters, and three men-of-war from the Pacific near the Suez Canal.

## SOME PERSONAL ITEMS.

We are indebted to the American Consul at Malta, Mr. Henry Ruggles, for a copy of the *Malta Times* and *United Service Gazette*, of Feb. 1, in which we find the following: "Col. Asher R. Eddy of the United States Army died suddenly at the Imperial Hotel in Malta on the morning of the 27th inst. He had arrived but the day previous, with his wife and daughter, from Cairo, where for several weeks he had been ill, though not thought to be dangerously so, with the Egyptian dysentery. We learn that Col. Eddy was a native of Rhode Island in the United States, was born in 1834, was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, of the Class of 1844, served in the Mexican War, and at the breaking out of the Rebellion in 1861, was given an important command in Tennessee, and throughout the long struggle served his country with all the bravery and devotion of a gallant soldier and patriot. In all his social relations, both among his military comrades and his large circle of acquaintances, he was universally beloved and respected. His wife, who is a niece of the renowned General Sam Houston of Texas, is completely overwhelmed by the sudden and terrible bereavement which has befallen her. The Military Commandant of Malta, the Hon. Major-General Fielding, with the hearty approval of His Excellency the Governor Sir Arthur Borton, kindly offered the American Consul, Mr. Henry Ruggles, a military escort to the funeral cortège, but the necessity of an immediate burial prevented the acceptance of the kind offer. By the death of Col. Eddy, General Hancock of the United States Army is the only survivor of the class of 1844." The *Times* is in error in this last statement; there are certainly three members of the class of '44 alive besides General Hancock, viz., Wm. G. Peck and Jos. H. Whittlesey, who graduated numbers one and two, and Alfred Pleasanton. Peck is a professor in Columbia College, N. Y., Whittlesey a major on the retired list of the Army, and Pleasanton a citizen of Philadelphia.

From Morristown, N. J., Feb. 19, 1879, Mr. Thomas Nast wrote to Col. Guy V. Henry as follows: "Dear Sir—Learning through Col. Church, of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL, that you were the originator of the testimonial, which I received on the first of the month, I write to thank you for the kind efforts that you have made in my behalf, and to assure you I appreciate them. I feel that it is, indeed, a very great honor to receive such a token of approval from a class of men that I respect so highly." To which Colonel Henry replies: "You have no reason to feel in debt to the Army; they owe you one they can never repay. Your one picture of a skeleton soldier, standing at 'present arms,' to dismounted canon, demolished fortifications, etc., did more to mould public opinion in our favor than bushels of letters. I am both glad and proud to have been the one, to suggest to my brother officers, what their hearts already prompted them to do."

The National Association of Veterans of the Mexican War met at Baltimore, Feb. 22. General Denver of Ohio presided. Among the delegates present were General H. Gates Gibson, U. S. A.; James Shields, of Missouri; J. J. Martin, of Alabama; Robert Klotz, General Biles, of Pennsylvania; General John S. Williams, of Kentucky; General J. T. Bartholow, of Missouri; Colonel Edward Cantrell and Major James Kelly, of North Carolina; Major Milligan of Virginia, and Colonel William L. Tidball and Colonel George W. Leonard, of New York. A committee was appointed to visit Washington and present to Congress the equity of their claims to be placed upon the pension list. There were about one hundred veterans present. The evening session was largely attended, quite a number of ladies being present and the assembly-room crowded. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, General J. W. Denver, of Ohio; Vice-Presidents, John Love, of Indiana; Major-General W. F. Barry and General Benjamin Alvord, United States Army; Rear-Admiral Fabius Stanley and Surgeon-General W. Maxwell, United States Navy, and two from each State; Secretary, Alexander M. Kenaday, Washington, D. C.; Treasurer, S. V. Niles, Washington, D. C.; Marshal, General E. R. Biles, Philadelphia; Finance Committee, Major-General S. P. Heintzelman, S. V. Niles, and M. D. Montis. General Shields was then introduced and spoke of the war with Mexico, of which he said no faithful history had ever been written. He declared it a campaign which the world had never equalled in success. Speeches were also made by General Gibson, U. S. A.; Colonel E. T. Joyce, of Baltimore; Colonel Cantrell, of North Carolina; Judge Martin, of Alabama; General J. D. Carrington, of Maryland, and Major Milligan, of Norfolk, Va. The association will meet in Norfolk on the 23d of February, 1880.

Wm. B. TIBBETS, of Troy, N. Y., Colonel 21st N. Y. Cavalry during the war, and Brevet Major General U. S. V., is reported to be a large stockholder and director of the Wood Reaper Works, at Hoosac Falls, N. Y., which pay twenty-five per cent. annually on one million dollars capital.

LIEUTENANT HARRY WRIGHT, of the 9th Cavalry, and Miss Irwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, were married in that city on Wednesday evening, Feb. 19.

SECRETARY THOMPSON and the Chiefs of Bureaus Navy Department, with their wives, were entertained at dinner, in Washington, Thursday evening, Feb. 20, by Paymaster Albert W. Bacon.

A DESPATCH from St. Paul, Feb. 23, says of the recent robbery of Army officers near Fort Keogh: "Mr. Cahn lost \$3,290 and the officers small sums. A passenger with \$5,000, who expected to go in the ambulance, escaped by the fortunate chance of being in a wagon only an hour or two ahead. The robbery was doubtless planned with a view to capture this man and Cahn. Cahn's loss was owing to the fact that he couldn't purchase drafts or exchanges in Miles, and he was therefore obliged to carry the money with him. William Dixon, arrested as one of the robbers, and at once sent back to Miles City, was not very satisfactorily identified, and has been released on bail. The foot-pads were carefully masked, and worked in silence and rapidly, as a guard of four mounted soldiers was a mile and a half behind. The officers explain their surrender by the fact that their arms were under the wagon and out of reach. This is the first robbery on this route."

CAPTAIN and Mrs. Camillo C. C. Carr, 1st Cavalry, are en route from Washington to their post, Camp Halleck, Nev.

THE remains of Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell D. Emory, Captain 9th Infantry, U. S. A., have been reinterred at Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown, D. C.

A BILL (H. R. 6370) which passed the House, Jan. 31, reinstates

Major Joseph B. Collins, late U. S. Army; retires him in that grade as of the date he was previously mustered out, charging him with all extra pay and allowances paid him at that time.

A BILL (H. R. 706) which passed the House Jan. 24, gives Asst. Surg. Jenkins A. Fitzgerald, U. S. A., \$78.50 for medical services rendered in 1869-70, at the Arapahoe and Cheyenne Indian Agency.

We are informed that the "Fitz John Porter" Board, Major-Gen. J. M. Schoffeld, president, will reassemble at the Army Building, New York City, March 6, 1879.

In recommending a pension for Mrs. Wm. Gates the Senate Committee says: "It was not necessary that evidence should be presented to the committee to show the public services of General Gates; the history of the Republic furnishes it. Among all the brave officers of the American Army none have a brighter record, or performed longer or more brilliant service, than Gen. Gates. He left a widow, the claimant, at the time of his death, who needs and richly deserves to be remembered by the Government."

In a report presented Feb. 21, 1877, and reprinted this year, the Senate Committee say: "That Capt. Thomas B. Hunt was cashiered without proper cause, and that he ought to be restored to his rank and grade on the rolls of the Army." Capt. Hunt was A.Q.M. in the Army from Jan. 18, 1867, to Feb. 27, 1874, when he was cashiered.

CAPT. GEORGE W. GIFT, editor of the *Napa Reporter*, died Feb. 11, at Napa City, Cal., in the forty-sixth year of his age. He was born near Nashville, Tenn., on March 1, 1833. In 1846 he was sent to the Annapolis Naval Academy, after two years being assigned as midshipman to the Pacific squadron. He resigned from the Navy in 1852, going to California and establishing a banking house at Sacramento. On the breaking out of the Rebellion he entered the Confederate navy, taking command of the ironclad *Arkansas* on the Mississippi. For various daring exploits during the war he was promoted by Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, and finally became Naval Constructor on the Chattanooga River, where he married his second wife. About five years ago he returned to California and settled in Napa. He leaves a wife and four children, one being by his first wife.

ADMIRAL PREBLE has written to the Editor of the *Boston Evening Post*, a caustic and critical letter on a recent pamphlet by Colonel J. Franklin Reigart, entitled, "The History of the First United States Flag, and the Patriotism of Betsey Ross, the immortal heroine that originated the first flag of the Union." The Admiral says Mrs. Ross did not originate the first flag, but simply made the first flag of stars and stripes upon the order of a Committee of Congress, and characterizes other claims and assertions of Col. Reigart in his work as simply absurd. He says the portrait of Mrs. Ross in the pamphlet is apocryphal, and quotes on this point from a descendant of Mrs. Ross who has written to him on the subject. The Admiral dismisses the subject by remarking: "It is amusing how many errors have been condensed in the few pages of this pamphlet."

A FAUX DESPATCH from Washington, Jan. 24, says: "It is understood that the Court of Inquiry convened at the request of Major Marcus A. Reno, of the 7th Cavalry, to inquire into the charges that Major Reno had, at the battle of Little Big Horn (the Custer massacre) been guilty of cowardice and remissness in the discharge of his duty, will report that the inquiry has not deduced evidence against him which would warrant a trial by court martial. C. K. Peck and William Harmon, Government contractors on the Missouri River, have filed with the Secretary of War a communication charging Gen. William B. Hazen, United States Army, with conduct unbecoming an officer."

GERMANY has recently lost one of its most famous soldiers, Field Marshal Count Von Roon, who died in Berlin, Feb. 24, 1879, aged 75 years. He entered the service in 1819, and after a stirring career retired in December, 1872, being then Minister of War. His first experience of actual warfare was with the Prussian Corps of Observation on the Rhine in 1832. In August, 1848, he was named chief of the general staff of the 8th Army corps, with which he took part in the campaign in Baden, participating in the fights before Rastadt and on the Murg. The success in the movement against Denmark in 1864, and in the campaign against Austria in 1866 was in a great degree owing to General Roon's skill and foresight. In 1866 he was promoted to be a general of infantry, and took part in the campaign in Bohemia and in the battle of Koniggratz. In the war between Germany and France, in 1870 and 1871, he gained fresh laurels, the splendid military organization which enabled Germany to overcome the forces of Napoleon at Sedan, being essentially his work. At the close of the Franco-German war he was elevated to the dignity of marshal of the new German Empire, although he had not assumed any command on the field. He also exchanged his title of Baron for that of Count. At the age of 15 Von Roon entered as a cadet at the Military State school, at 15 he was a 2d lieutenant, at 23 a captain, at 30 a major, at 48 a colonel, at 53 a major-general, and at 55 a lieutenant-general. He was the author of a variety of works on military and other subjects. Since the Franco-Prussian war he has been conspicuous as a leader of the opposition to Bismarck, and for a time succeeded him as premier. Von Roon is described as in appearance as well as character a stiff, unbending soldier, with a short, peremptory manner of speech, rough, and disapproving toward his inferiors.

THE N. Y. TELEGRAM describes Mr. H. B. Hotchkiss, the inventor, as a medium-sized, round, pleasant-faced man, with a keen black eye and the look of one who is accustomed to accomplishing his purposes. We may add that Mr. H.'s "keen black eye" is due to the Indian blood in his veins, of which he has a considerable percentage. The *Telegram* says further: Mr. Hotchkiss is a New Yorker who invented a wonderful gun ten years ago, and has spent all the intervening time in France. At St. Denis, near Paris, he has established a great factory, where he is turning out cannon at the rate of forty a month, most of them being made for the French government, which pays him \$1,000,000 a year for what it buys of him. Brazil, Italy, Holland, Austria, and other governments have also formally adopted the Hotchkiss gun.

M. EDW. C. DENNIS, senior member of the firm of Marcial and Co., Broadway, New York, died in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. Mr. Dennis married the only daughter of Commo. Geo. H. Cooper of the Navy. He leaves one son, about 10 years of age, the only other child, a bright boy of about eight years of age, having died a few weeks ago. Mr. Dennis was a gentleman of culture and of rare

business qualities, and was much admired for his social and genial disposition.

The officers of the Naval Academy gave a ball on the evening of Feb. 21. A number of visitors from Washington attended.

GEN. BEAUREGARD is reported to have succeeded Alexander H. Stephens as Supreme Grand Commander of the Grand Consistory of the Sons of Malta in America.

BREVET BRIG.-GEN. JAS. S. BRISBIE, Major 2d Cavalry, writes to the *Spirit of the Times*, that "in a few years Montana will be one of the best breeding States for horse raising. Our climate and soil cannot be equalled on the American continent in this particular, and a great many Eastern breeders are talking of coming out to establish stock farms."

GEN. JOSEPH HOOKER, U. S. Army, was visited at his home in Garden City, L. I., Feb. 22, by the 8th N. J. Vet. Vol. Association, who presented a splendidly engrossed and framed set of resolutions expressive of the association's "high esteem and affectionate regard for their gallant commander at Williamsburg."

MRS. SARAH V. PIPER, widow of Captain James W. Piper, 5th U. S. Artillery, who was committed to the Kings County Inebriates' Home as an habitual drunkard, was brought before Judge Gilbert, Feb. 25, 1879, on a writ of habeas corpus. She seeks to be released on the ground that she is restored. Her guardian, Francis E. Berier, of Fort Hamilton, New York Harbor, formerly of the Subsistence Department, U. S. Army, opposed the application, and stated that the Rev. John Williett, superintendent of the Home, desired to get rid of her because she had quarrelled with Mrs. Williett. Mrs. Piper declares that her guardian is an habitual drunkard himself. Decision was reserved.

THE London *Standard*, announces conspicuously in its columns of Feb. 26, "that the French Prince Imperial will sail for the Cape to-morrow." He intends to join as a volunteer the column which is like to have the sharpest fighting, his earnest petition for a commission in the British army having been rejected. In a letter to M. Rouher, the Bonapartist, young Napoleon says: "For the last eight years I have been the guest of England. My education was completed in the English Military School. I have strengthened my ties of friendship with the English Army by taking part in its annual manoeuvres. The war at the Cape having assumed a more serious character, I have wished to follow the campaign. I could not refrain from sharing the dangers and fatigues of the troops, among whom I have so many friends. Moreover, the time spent in witnessing this struggle of civilization against barbarism will not be wasted for me."

"THE ridicule cast by 'H. M. S. Pinafore's' upon the 'shore-going officers' of the British navy would have been even more appropriate," says the N. Y. *Times*, "in the seventeenth century, when it was quite a common thing to transfer officers from the land service to the fleet without any preparation. One, Gen. Monk, had never been to sea in his life. Another, Prince Rupert, the famous cavalry leader of Charles I.'s army, who, when appointed to the command of a man-of-war, aroused the laughter of his crew by calling out, 'Wheel to the left,' instead of 'Port your helm.' Robert Blake, afterward second only to Nelson himself, had been military commandant at the siege of Taunton immediately before his appointment as vice-admiral of the Channel fleet. Lord Torrington's name was corrupted into 'Tarry-in-town' by the sailors, in consequence of his undisguised preference of his town house to his quarter-deck. Lord Dorset's close attention to his duty was shown by the fact of his requiring to have his own flagship pointed out to him."

ADMIRAL W. GORE-JONES and Mrs. Jones have sailed for Europe.

It is expected Marshal McMahon will pay a visit to Ireland in the coming summer.

GEN. JOHN C. FREMONT, now Governor of Arizona, has left Arizona for Washington at the request of the Territorial Legislature, to look after interests affecting the welfare of the people.

CHAS. S. BELL, of whose adventures as a scout and spy, under Gen. Grant during the war, many surprising stories are told, died at the Dayton, Ohio, Soldiers' Home of consumption last week.

CAPT. GEORGE E. TYSON has begun a suit against Captain H. W. Howgate, 30th U. S. Infantry, assistant to the Chief Signal officer of the Army, claiming \$3,000 damages. He alleges in his declaration that in 1877 he was Captain of the Watch of the Navy Department, at a salary of \$80 per month; that he was familiar with the Arctic seas, and had proposed a plan for discovering the North Pole by means of colonies of experienced and hardy seamen placed on the Polar coast, advancing each year toward the pole; that Captain Howgate employed him to carry out one of the vessels to be employed upon an expedition for this purpose and agreed to obtain for him a leave of absence from the Navy Department which would insure reassignment to duty on his return from the expedition; that he returned to this city in November, 1878, and found no arrangement had been made by which he could resume his office at the Navy Department, but that, on the contrary, the Secretary refused to reinstate him in the place. For this violation of the contract he claims \$3,000 of Capt. Howgate.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* has the following new version of the "Burial of Sir John Moore": "Not a drum was heard, because the drummer was not feeling very well and asked to be excused, nor a funeral note of any kind, as his corse to the ramparts we hurried; not a single, solitary son of a gun of a soldier discharged his farewell shot o'er the grave where the remains of the late Mr. Moore were deposited. The farewell shot business was omitted on account of the great scarcity of ammunition. We buried him darkly at dead of night, and did the best job we could for him under the circumstances. We could not borrow, beg or steal a pick or shovel in the entire neighborhood, and were obliged to turn the sods with our bayonets, which, by the way, was the first thing that had been turned by said bayonets since we had been drafted. We did this all by the struggling moonbeans' misty light, and the lantern dimly burning, with just about half enough oil in it, and a strip of an old flannel undershirt for a wick. Few and short were the prayers we said, the chaplain being home on a furlough and no one within forty miles to take his place. We spoke not a word of sorrow, our time being somewhat limited, as the enemy was not far distant, and advancing with gigantic strides. We thought, as we hollowed his narrow bed and smoothed down his lonely pillow with a can-teen, that the foe and the stranger would tread o'er his head and we far away on the billow; but not too far, however, as the enemy outnumbered us about seven to one. Lightly they'll talk of the

spirit that's gone, and wonder where they can get another flask filled with the same, and o'er his cold ashes upbraid him, knowing, of course, that he is in no condition to defend himself; but little he'll reck if they let him sleep on in a grave where a Briton has laid him, and not bother him to get up and take out a burial permit or ask him to pay ground rent. We wish here to correct the impression that slowly and sadly we laid him down from the field of his fame fresh and gory. We did no such a thing. The corpse was washed and put in good shape, and we defy any man to show that there was a drop of gore about him. It is true that we carved not a line and we raised not a stone, because there was no stone mason handy who would do the job at a reasonable figure. About this time we heard the distant and random gun that the foe was sullenly firing, so we adjourned the funeral, left the deceased alone in his glory, and made ourselves scarce in that vicinity."

THE N. Y. *Evening Post* reports that "in Chicago Gen. Sheridan and his pretty wife and 'the twins' seem to have made an indelible impression on the heart of Madame Gerster, the prima donna."

THE University Building at Asbury, Ind., was burnt on the 10th of February with the armory of the Asbury Cadets. The local papers inform us that "the fire department won no laurels," but the cadets under Captain D. D. Wheeler, U. S. A., did noble work in saving property. "The guns were carried from the armory, and carriages taken apart and mounted in perfect order, without injury resulting to a single piece. While the citizens and firemen were greatly excited, the cadets were cool and self-possessed, and had the management of the fire been in their hands, undoubtedly the building would have been saved. The result of discipline and good training was never more apparent than on this occasion." The "University Monthly" also informs us that "no one who visits Asbury can fail to note the remarkable change in the general bearing and personal appearance of the students which has taken place since the Military Department was organized. The students are more healthy, more graceful, more polite and respectful, and more cheerful, because of the Military Department; and their scholarship is none the worse. Military tactics and drill in Asbury are a success." The Captain is reported to be "one of the rare instances of a man who is, at the same time, a very strict military disciplinarian and very popular among the cadets."

THE President's Reception on Tuesday evening, Feb. 25th, surpassed anything of the kind that has taken place in Washington for many years. It is probably the only affair of that character that has ever taken place at the White House, and may therefore be regarded as novel. It was an official assemblage, being confined to the Diplomatic Corps, the Army and Navy, the Judiciary, Congress, and prominent officials of the Executive Departments. The invitations to the Army extended only to those of the rank of colonel and upwards; to the Navy, those of the rank or relative rank of captain and upwards. The Marine Corps was represented by Colonel McCawley, the commandant, he being the only officer in Washington who came within the scope of ranks indicated. The officers of the Navy were greater in number than those of the Army, and presented the most brilliant feature of the evening, not excepting the Diplomatic Corps. Among them were Admiral Porter, Vice-Admiral Rowan, Rear-Admirals Worden, Jon. Rodgers, Balch, Ammen, Boggs, Middleton, Sands, Radford, Poor, Scott, Almy; Commodores English, Beaumont, Temple, Feibiger, Whitney, Law; Paymaster-General Cutter; Captains A. W. Johnson, Russell, Nicholson, Franklin, De Kraft, Upshur, Jouett; Pay Director Watmough, Engineer-in-Chief Shock, Chief Engineer Wood. Among the Army officers were Generals Meigs, Barnes, Townsend, MacFeely, Alvord, Sickles; Colonels Poe, McCook, Audenreid, Bacon, Baxter, Parke. All were accompanied by ladies of their family. Mrs. Logan and Miss Porter were particularly conspicuous on either side of the Admiral. The dressing was simply superb. Mrs. Benj. A. Willis and her sister were probably two as handsome ladies as could be picked out, although not as richly dressed as a great number of others. The supper could not be excelled, but was marked by the absence of wine of any description. The entire Cabinet was present. The floral decorations were abundant.

DONN PLATT and Mr. McGarrhan chose the sacred precincts of the Senate retiring room, at the Capitol, for a personal encounter, in which Platt was badly damaged.

LIEUT. F. V. GREENE, of the Engineers, was married very quietly to Miss Chevalie, a charming Washington lady, on Tuesday last, at St. John's Church, Washington. The Lieutenant appeared in his full uniform, with his orders, which he wore for the first time since Congress gave him permission to receive them.

THE following were the arrivals at the Ebbitt House for the week ending Feb. 26: Lieut. J. E. Noell, U. S. Navy; Lieut. Theo. Mosher, 22d Inf.; Mid' W. L. Varnum, U. S. Navy; Major W. E. Merrill, U. S. Army; Capt. C. Holmes, U. S. Army; Dr. G. E. H. Harmon, U. S. Navy; Lieut. R. G. Heiner, 1st Inf.; Capt. P. L. Lee, 10th Cav.; Lieut. Bainbridge Reynolds, 3d Cav.; Lieut. H. H. Wright, 9th Cav.; Capt. J. A. Greer, U. S. Navy; Midshipman H. T. Mayo, U. S. Navy; Lieut. R. E. Whitman, 3d Cav.; Commander H. B. Seeley, U. S. Navy.

OFFICERS registered at the War Department for the week ending Feb. 26: Chaplain J. A. M. La Tourette, U. S. Army; Col. J. C. Duane, Engineers; Lieut. Chas. Harkins, 2d Inf.; Capt. L. Lorain, 2d Art.; Capt. H. Nowlan, 7th Cav.; Capt. S. C. Kellogg, 5th Cav.; Capt. W. B. Kennedy, 10th Cav.; Capt. J. N. Wheeler, 2d Cav.; Capt. H. Schreiner, 9th Cav.; Lieut. Frank Taylor, 14th Inf.; Lieut. M. P. Mans, 1st Inf.; Lieut. C. P. Miller, 4th Art.; Capt. C. A. Alligood, M. S. K.; Gen. D. E. Sickles, U. S. Army; Lieut. T. Turtle, Engineers; Major C. M. Terrell, Paymaster, U. S. Army.

THERE is a story told of Sheridan (not the Lieutenant-General), who was returning to the House of Commons after dining with Fox. The two statesmen had dined not wisely but too well, and their visual powers took somewhat of the uncertainty of their legs, for Fox, rubbing his eyes, exclaimed, "Why, Sherry, I—I can't see the Speaker." "Can't you, be gad," re-hiccuped Sheridan, "I can see two!"

THE longest range duel on record has just been fought between Adam Goldie and "Bloody Bill" Darrell, two Texas rascals. They were stationed behind oaks on the open prairie of northern Texas, four hundred yards apart. After several shots, which did nothing more than cut the clothes and an ear of the combatants, both fired at once and both fell, Darrell dead, and Goldie with a bullet in his left shoulder.

BRET HARTZ, who, by the way, figures on the records of California Volunteers as "Capt. F. B. Harte," has had six of his tales

reprinted in a Servian translation, under the title of "Shest Kali formuskikh Pricha Brets Kharta."

CETTYWATO, the Zulu chief, says he agrees with Shero Ali, Spotted Tail, Sitting Bull, and the New York *Sun*, that all armies—except his own—should be reduced to 10,000 men—or even less.

IT appears that Percy Wyndham had announced an ascent in a balloon of his own construction, and after attaining a height of about 500 feet the balloon burst, and down came the amateur aeronaut into a lake, from whence, of course, he was extricated dead. Wyndham had been commander-in-chief to that "high and mighty potentate," the King of Burmah, who has justrowned over four score of his relatives to prevent a threatened insurrection.

THE Societe de Geographie de Paris intend holding a meeting in commemoration of Captain Cook, the explorer, on February 14, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of his death.

GENERAL BOUROUZE, who took such a prominent part in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, and commanded the French army which was compelled to take refuge in Switzerland, has just been superseded in his command of the Lyons corps d'armee.

SULEIMAN PASHA, who was sentenced to degradation and imprisonment in a fortress for life, now that the Sultan's brother-in-law, Mahmoud Damad, has come to grief, has made disclosures, backed by documents, to prove that not only was he acting under his orders at Shirk and on the retreat from Philippopolis, but that Mahmoud was all along in Russian pay. It is added that the Sultan has ordered a revision of the proceedings of the court-martial, and it is even affirmed that Suleiman will yet be acquitted and restored to favor.

WHILE a salute was firing at the Soldiers' Home near Hampton, Feb. 22, a gunner named Moritz lost his arm by the premature discharge of his piece. An amputation was performed by the surgeon in charge and the patient is doing well.

LIEUT. LUCIEN N. B. WYSE, of the French navy, has arrived at Washington in connection with the proposed interoceanic canal across the American Isthmus. M. Ferdinand de Lesseps has issued invitations to the various nations to send delegates to Paris to decide upon the best route for the canal, and Lieutenant Wyse is in this country to explain the plans of M. de Lesseps.

Lewis G. Goldsmith is to start from Boston next summer, in a boat eighteen feet long, to make a voyage round the world.

**EX SECRETARY ROBESON'S VINDICATION.**—The Republicans of the House Committee on Naval Affairs, have answered the majority report of their Democratic associates, with a minority report, on Mr. Robeson, declaring that "in the light of the facts, we clearly affirm that the administration of Mr. Robeson as Secretary of the Navy, so far as the evidence discloses, is not soiled with a single act of fraud or personal corruption." The minority then take up and review each charge made, and the evidence in support and rebuttal of the same, and reach the conclusion that the charges are not sustained by the evidence or the facts in the case. The exchange of old material for new by Mr. Robeson was, they assert, highly advantageous to the Government, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law, and "there is not the slightest evidence that the old material was disposed of corruptly, or for less than its fair market value. The department was bound to execute the laws, and was, therefore, in the absence of any judicial opinion of binding authority, compelled to construe its meaning, and, having done so in good faith, with no unlawful purpose or interest, with cautious inquiry and careful consideration, and with the assistance of the opinions of intelligent and experienced men, also acting in good faith and with only the purest intentions, it seems idle at this late day to attempt to distort it into an unlawful and criminal offence." They charge the majority report with misstating facts. Of the \$182,000,000 so startlingly displayed in that report as expended by Mr. Robeson only \$155,564,560 was expended, and only \$52,681,972.17 of this was available from the appropriations for building ships. Of the 70 ships that went off the register under Mr. Robeson, 5 were lost at sea, and the remaining 65 cost \$29,083,213.02, instead of \$100,000,000, as asserted by the majority report. Of these 65 vessels, 31 were sold after the passage of the act of 1872, and the proceeds covered into the Treasury, and not \$1 from the sale was expended by Mr. Robeson. Twelve others were sold at auction, and the proceeds credited on the books of the Treasury to the Bureau of Construction and Steam Engineering. The minority having briefly reviewed all matters, general and special, alleged against the late Secretary, and certain of his subordinates, with confidence rely upon the testimony as sustaining the conclusion to which they have arrived, and say, "whoever will impose upon himself the labor of carefully and impartially considering all the evidence taken will be irresistably driven to the conclusion that in no instance has the law been wilfully violated, and that neither fraud nor corruption stains a single transaction. To the credit of our institutions and the character of the public servants connected with the Department of the Navy, from the time Mr. Robeson became Secretary until the date of his retirement, it is said that, after the most extraordinary investigation of official and private conduct, there is not the slightest proof of personal gain by an unlawful or doubtful method. Recurring, therefore, to the legitimate object and purpose of this investigation, as stated in the resolution directing the inquiry, we respectfully submit that the administration of the Navy Department by George M. Robeson and his subordinates, as shown by the testimony taken, is free from fraud, corruption, or wilful violation of the law."

## THE NAVY.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, President and Com'der-in-Chief  
RICHARD W. THOMPSON, Secretary of the Navy.  
JOHN W. HOGG, Chief Clerk.

BUREAUS OF THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.  
YARDS AND DOCKS—Commodore Richard L. Law.  
NAVIGATION—Commodore William D. Whiting.  
EQUIPMENT AND RECRUITING—Commodore Earl English.  
ORDNANCE—Commodore Wm. N. Jeffers.  
MEDICINE AND SURGERY—Med. Director J. Winthrop Taylor.  
PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING—P. M. General Geo. F. Cutler.  
STEAM ENGINEERING—Eng.-in-Chief Wm. H. Shock.  
CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRS—Chief Constructor John W. Baaby.  
FLAG OFFICERS AFLOAT.

EUROPEAN STATION—Rear-Admiral John C. Howell.  
ATLANTIC STATION—Rear-Admiral T. H. Patterson.  
PACIFIC STATION—Rear-Admiral C. R. P. Rodgers.  
SOUTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral Edw. T. Nichols.  
NORTH ATLANTIC—Rear-Admiral Jno. C. Howell.  
FLAG OFFICERS ON SHORE DUTY.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY—Rear-Admiral John Rodgers, Supt.  
NAVAL ASYLUM, PHILADELPHIA—Rear-Admiral J. R. Mullany.

NAVAL ACADEMY—Commodore Foxhall A. Parker.  
COMMANDANTS NAVY YARDS AND STATIONS.  
Commodore E. R. Colhoun, Mare Island.  
Commodore George M. Hanson, Boston, Mass.  
Commodore J. W. A. Nicholson, New York.  
Commodore John C. Febiger, Washington, D.C.  
Commodore J. Blakely Creighton, Norfolk, Va.  
Commodore Pierce Crosby, League Island, Penn.  
Commodore John Guest, Portsmouth, N. H.  
Captain George K. Belknap, Pensacola, Fla.  
Commodore Edward Simpson, Naval Station, New London, Ct.  
Commodore Geo. M. Hanson, Naval Station, Port Royal, S. C.  
COMMANDANT MARINE CORPS.  
Colonel Commandant, Charles G. McCawley.

## VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE cadets at the Naval Academy were [Feb. 22d given a holiday, and excused from drills and recitations.

*The Powhatan* arrived at Havana Feb. 24th, and expected to leave about the 26th for Puerto Cabello—probably via Key West.

THE Secretary of the Navy has invited proposals for raising the wreck of the U. S. S. *Huron*, to be received until March 20.

*The Alert* arrived at San Francisco, Feb. 21, from Yokohama, after a stormy passage. All well on board.

*The Supply* sailed from Funchal, Madeira, Feb. 4, for New York.

The *Jamestown*, which was used as a marine school by the State of California for three or four years, has been turned over to the Navy—the State authorities having determined to abandon the attempt to educate youths for the merchant service.

*The Quinnebaug*, which arrived at Gibraltar, Feb. 2, encountered two severe gales after leaving Norfolk, and afterwards met with a succession of light airs and unfavorable winds. She behaved remarkably well in the gales.

REAR ADMIRAL R. H. WYMAN, commanding the naval force on the North Atlantic Station, reports his arrival in the *Powhatan* at San Juan de Porto Rico, Feb. 7—six days and fifteen hours from Hampton Roads, and would leave on the 11th February for St. Thomas.

LIEUT. JAMES FRANKLIN, while on duty Dec. 4th, on board the *Ashuelot*, received a serious fall. He was sent from Manila to the Naval Hospital at Yokohama for treatment, but on the recommendation of a board of surgeons, he has been sent to the Naval Hospital at Mare Island, Cal., and left in the steamer of January 27th.

A BILL introduced Feb. 7, (S. 1787) gives Jeromimus S. Underhill, of New York, power to submit to the Court of Claims his demand for additional compensation for the "light draught iron-clad monitor *Modoc*."

CAPTAIN CLARK H. WELLS has been appointed President, and Commander R. D. Evans and Lieutenant Commander H. C. Taylor, members of a Board to examine and report upon a system of signals proposed by Commodore J. C. Beaumont, U. S. Navy.

*The Powhatan*, Rear Admiral Wyman, arrived at St. Thomas, Feb. 13th, from Porto Rico, and sailed on the 15th for St. Croix, whence she will proceed homeward via Havana. While at St. Thomas a race was rowed between crews from the *Powhatan* and the Italian man-of-war *Cristoforo Colombo* in eight-oared gigs, distance two miles, for a purse of \$150. The Americans won. The Italian crew rowed poorly.

THE London Army and Navy Gazette argues that if the Constitution or H. M. troop ship *Malabar* which narrowly escaped going ashore, had had Sir Wm. Thompson's sounding apparatus, neither would have made for the shore in the manner they did. "The Constitution," it adds, "strange to say, did not even appear to have her lead going, and thus got into shoal water when she thought she was in mid-channel."

OFFICIAL information has been received in Washington of the seizure of the American schooner *Marcia Reynolds*, of New York, by the government forces at Puerto Cabello, and the taking of her provisions for the use of the garrison there, the vessel not being allowed to leave the place. Instructions have been sent to Rear Admiral Wyman, who is supposed to be at St. Jago de Cuba, to proceed at once with the *Powhatan* to Puerto Cabello.

A BILL introduced by Senator Sargent, Feb. 5, from the Committee on Naval Affairs (S. 1770), appropriates \$50,015 for the purchase of "Clifton," N. of Georgetown Heights, D. C., as a site for a new Naval Observatory, and authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to contract for the erection thereon of a suitable fireproof observatory building at a cost not to exceed \$162,000. The Secretary is also "directed to prepare estimates of the cost of suitable buildings for the superintendent, professors, and other necessary employees of the observatory, and report the same to Congress at its next session."

A GENERAL Court-martial assembled on board the *New Hampshire*, at Port Royal, on the 24th February, before which were to be brought for trial Lieut. J. B. Hobson and Sailmaker Robt. L. Tatem. The following officers composed the Court: Capt. S. P. Quackenbush, Surgeon H. H. Kidder, Paymaster Theo. S. Thompson, Lieut.-Comd. Chas. H. Pendleton, D. W. Mallan, O. F. Heyerman, Lieut. E. W. Watson, Judge Advocate J. H. R. Bartlett, U. S. M. C. Both of the officers above mentioned are to be tried for drunkenness.

A DESPATCH from Montevideo, Jan. 1st, 1879, says: Our port is quite gay with foreign war vessels, as at this season they leave the dangerous and diseased ports of Brazil and pass the hot summer months in our benign climate. There are besides the frigate Hartford and sloop Essex, of the United States navy; the British frigate Volage and two gunboats, Brazilian corvette Amazonas and four gun boats, two Spani h, one Italian and one French men of war now anchored in our roads.

REAR ADMIRAL JNO. C. HOWELL arrived at Villefranche, Feb. 5th, and assumed command of the U. S. N. force on the European station. In G. O. No. 1 of that date, he announces his staff as follows: Personal Staff—Captain Jno. Lee Davis, Chief of Staff; Lieut. W. T. Burwell, Secretary; Lieut. H. G. O. Colby, Aid; Lt. F. H. Paine, Flag Lieutenant. General Staff—Chief Eng. Edw. Fithian, Med. Insp. Delavan Bloodgood, Pay Inspector Frank C. Cosby, and Capt. McLane Tilton, U. S. M. C. The *Quinnebaug* was daily expected at Villefranche from Gibraltar. The *Despatch* and *Gettysburg*, heretofore on detailed service, are now a part of the force under Rear Admiral Howell.

MR. SARGENT, of California, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, has reported back resolutions of the Philadelphia Common Council asking Congress to make sufficient appropriation to protect from overflow the League Island Navy yard, and asked that the committee be discharged from its further consideration. In submitting the report Mr. Sargent said the committee did not mean to express the opinion that the subject should not be considered, but the question whether the League Island Navy-yard should be abolished ought to be considered also. During a recent storm the ship houses there were blown down, and an ironclad had been burned there, because there was not water enough around her to put the fire out. The committee thought it would probably be better to purchase a site for a yard at Chester or some other point. Besides, the question of abolishing some of the yards was being agitated, and this League Island yard might probably be abolished. The committee was discharged from its further consideration.

FROM letters to several people received from different officers aboard the coast survey steamer *Blake*, we glean the following summary of what has been done by that vessel during the past two months. Commander J. R. Bartlett, U. S. N., who is in command of the *Blake*, commenced actual work on the passage from Havana to Port Royal, Jamaica. Off Havana two hauls of the dredge were made and several specimens of sea lilies, *pentacrinus asteria*, secured. A number of hauls were made with the dredge across the old Bahama channel with but poor results, as but very little life was found. Owing to the strong trade winds and heavy sea in the Windward Passage and to the southward, no more dredging was done until off Port Royal, Jamaica, where four hauls were made. Running into Kingston for a couple of days, they then proceeded to St. Thomas. From St. Thomas a line of soundings was run to the west end of Santa Cruz island; dredging and trawling on the passage. The deepest sounding was in 2412 fathoms, and the deepest haul was made with the trawl in 2376 fathoms near Santa Cruz island, the trawl bringing up a stone weighing 300 pounds. Dredging and trawling was then carried on around the island, and they arrived at St. Thomas on January 9th; up to which time Commander Bartlett had made forty hauls with the dredge or trawl, and fifty soundings. The soundings were made with the new machine invented by Lieut.-Comd. C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., using piano wire, and they were all taken without accident. This is the first cruise in which Lieut.-Comd. Sigsbee's latest form of sounding machine has ever been used, and it has proved to be a thorough success, and by far the best deep sea sounding apparatus in the world. We have noticed in some of the Eastern papers that "Prof." Alex. Agassiz has accomplished such and such work in the *Blake*; ignoring completely the officers of the ship. It is but justice to Commander Bartlett and his officers to correct all such statements. Mr. Agassiz is the naturalist of the expedition: he determines the locality and ex-

tent of the dredging; selects, prepares and takes charge of the specimens; but the work of sounding, serial temperatures, densities, currents, etc., and the management of the ship, her gear and appliances, are under the charge of Commander Bartlett. The work of Mr. Agassiz is collecting specimens of animal life, most of which have been obtained before, and is not considered nearly so important as the grand physical examination of the Gulf of Mexico, which has been carried on for the past four years entirely without the presence or aid of Mr. Agassiz, by Lieut.-Comd. C. D. Sigsbee, U. S. N., and which is to be carried on by Commander Bartlett, U. S. N., after the two or three months allotted to dredging have expired. This is not intended to belittle the work or ability of Mr. Agassiz, but to render justice where justice is due, and to correct the reports that have been circulated by certain newspapers giving to Mr. Agassiz credit for work that has been carried on by Naval officers.

G. C. M. O. No. 2, Navy Department, Feb. 18, announce the finding of the Court which convened at the Naval Academy Jan. 30, 1879, in the case of Private Michael Duffy, U. S. M. Corps. He was found guilty of "Scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals," and "Assaulting with a deadly weapon and wounding another person in the service," and sentenced "to be confined for two years, in such place as may be designated by the Honorable Secretary of the Navy; to forfeit all pay and allowances that may become due him during the period of confinement, amounting to \$366.56, with the exception of such clothing as may be necessary for his comfort, and three dollars per month, which shall be paid him monthly." The sentence has been approved, and the prison at the Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, designated as the place of confinement. G. C. M. O. No. 3, announce the proceedings in the case of Private Joseph Volk, U. S. Marine Corps, who plead guilty to the charge of desertion, and was sentenced. The sentence has been approved, and the prison at the Marine Barracks, Boston, designated as the place of confinement. "To be confined at such place as the Honorable Secretary of the Navy may designate, for the term of one year, and to forfeit ten dollars per month of his pay during said confinement, amounting to \$120; also to forfeit all his clothing allowance during said confinement, excepting so much clothing as may be necessary for his health. At the end of his confinement, to be dishonorably discharged."

## CIRCULAR.

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICE, WASHINGTON, January 2, 1879.

Under the authority of the Treasury Department, the pay office for payment of the officers and men of the U. S. Navy on duty in the Coast Survey, has been permanently established in the U. S. Custom House in the city of Baltimore, Paymaster Worthington Goldsborough, U. S. N., in charge, who will also provide under proper authority the provisions and supplies required for the crews of the vessels so employed.

R. P. PATTERSON, Supt.

## NAVY GAZETTE.

## ORDERED.

FEB. 21.—Master A. H. Cobb, to the Portsmouth, at Norfolk, Va., on the 3d March.

Passed Assistant Surgeon John C. Wise, to duty at the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va.

FEB. 24.—Assistant Surgeon C. W. Deane, to the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Mass., on the 1st March.

Assistant Surgeon J. M. Steele, to the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, on the 1st March.

Assistant Surgeon E. H. Marsteller, to the Naval Academy on the 1st March.

Assistant Paymaster Callender L. Lewis, to temporary duty at Portsmouth, N. H.

FEB. 25.—Passed Assistant Paymaster Joseph T. Addicks, to temporary duty on board the *Alert*, at the Navy-yard, Mare Island, Cal.

Passed Assistant Engineer John C. Kafer, to the Naval Academy on the 5th March.

Acting Boatswain Timothy Sheean, to the *Alert*.

## DETACHED.

FEB. 21.—Ensign James T. Smith, from the Portsmouth on the 28th February, and ordered to the *New Hampshire*, at Port Royal, S. C.

Midshipman W. H. Allen has reported his arrival home, having been detached from the *Essex*, South Atlantic Station, on the 31st December last, and has been placed on waiting orders.

Passed Assistant Surgeon P. M. Rixey, from the Navy-yard, Norfolk, Va., and ordered to the *Tallapoosa*.

Assistant Surgeon E. H. Marsteller, from the *Tallapoosa* on the reporting of his relief, and placed on waiting orders.

FEB. 24.—Passed Assistant Surgeon J. A. Hawke, from the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, on the 28th February, and placed on waiting orders.

FEB. 25.—Commander Henry De H. Manley, from the command of the *Alert* on the 5th March, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.

Lieutenant Charles H. Black, from the *Hartford*, on the 31st December last, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenants Wm. W. Kimball and Chas. S. Norton, Master John D. Keefer, Ensign J. M. Robinson, and Boatswain H. Dickinson, from the *Alert*, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.

Lieutenant Francis M. Barber, from the *Alert* on the 15th March, and ordered to proceed home and wait orders.

Lieutenant Henry C. Hunter, from the Navy-yard, Mare Island, and ordered to the *Alert* on the 15th March.

Lieutenant Robert G. Peck, from the Nautical School ship St. Mary's and ordered to the *Alert* on the 15th March.

Ensigns Richard H. Townley and Frank H. Holmes, and Carpenter Richard Agnew, from the receiving ship Independence, and ordered to the *Alert*.

Cadet Midshipman P. J. Werlick has reported his return home, having been detached from the *Lackawanna* on the 4th February, and has been placed on sick leave.

Assistant Paymaster George Baughman, from the *Alert*, and ordered to settle accounts.

FEB. 26.—Rear-Admiral Wm. E. LeRoy has reported his return home, having been detached from the command of the European Station on the 23d January, and has been placed on waiting orders.

Ensign A. C. Hodgson, from the Naval Academy, and placed on sick leave.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED.

To Commander H. B. Seeley, commanding the *Ajax*, at Brandon, Va., for one month.  
To Lieutenant-Commander F. E. Chadwick until November 15 next.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

The unexecuted sentence of Pay Inspector J. N. Carpenter, U. S. Navy, as mitigated by the President August 18, 1876, has been remitted.

## LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Surgeon-General for the week ending February 26, 1879:

Edward McFarland Flisk, quartermaster, February 17, U. S. S. Michigan, at Erie, Pa.  
David Burton, marine, February 24, U. S. S. Colorado, at New York.  
Samuel Dicks, seaman, February 21, Naval Hospital, New York.  
Isaac Lang, schoolmaster, February 21, Naval Hospital, New York.

(Contributed to the Army and Navy Journal.)

## SEA FOAMS," OR "NAVAL YARNS."—NO. XV.

## A SCIENTIFIC CRUISE.

THERE was considerable bustle about the Navy-yard at Norfolk. All hands were busily engaged preparing for sea, the brig *Penguin*, bound on a scientific cruise.

The curious sounding apparatuses, observing instruments, etc., which were placed on board, astounded Jack; even the captain of the forecastle was puzzled. But it would not do for such a knowing one to expose his ignorance; so, when asked what they were, he shook his head, and growled:

"You'll know enough of them afore you gets through this cruise."

It would be presumed that the élite of the service would have been detailed for so scientific a voyage. But then, as now, favorites had to be provided with pleasant duties—and those least competent to the task were frequently the ones detailed.

Indeed, we have had instances of officers who spoke only English, being sent to France, Italy, and Germany, to report the naval progress of those countries.

The *Penguin* sailed, and in her several aspirants to fame. Government had provided works on "Deep Sea Soundings," "Physical Geography of the Sea," and various nautical books, but it had failed to supply works on natural history; and, to this omission, entre nous, we are indebted for the following anecdote:

An imperative order had been given by Captain Plumblime to his officers, to insert in their remarks, in the log book, such occurrences as the flight of birds, courses swam or steered by porpoises, etc.

"Be careful," said Captain Plumblime, "when entering in the log book the freaks of animal life; to do so according to Gunther."

"Gunter!" replied the officer of the deck, "was he a naturalist?"

"Hang it; no, sir; that's a nautical way of expressing one's self. It means to make the entries in ship shape language, giving the Latin names, such as are used by naturalists and scientific men. Do you understand, sir?"

The passed midshipman did understand, and communicated the order to his messmates.

There was an immediate search for book on natural history, encyclopedias, etc., but it was fruitless. They had given up hope of success, when they were summoned on deck to help the officers out of a dilemma.

"Fellows!" said he, "I'm to enter in my remarks, seeing a shoal of flying fish. How am I to express myself?"

The party scratched their heads, looked at each other, and made several suggestions:

"Flying pisces," said one.

"Wou't do," replied another.

"There's an English word, old Plumblime will detect it."

"I have it," struck in a tall fellow named Joe, "Write down, passed a shoal of *mammalia volens*."

"That's it," all exclaimed at once. "Down with it, sign your initials, all right."

Then, with a laugh, they repaired below to wet their whistles.

Old Plumblime never alluded to the remark, though he examined, or pretended to examine, the log book daily.

After that, the officers were not perplexed to find names to designate the strange fish they came across.

Yet, Captain Plumblime was a scientist, and a correspondent of several scientific societies.

## BOB STAY.

**THE EADS JETTIES.**—The Board of Engineer officers appointed to examine the works in progress of construction by James B. Eads, at the South Pass of the Mississippi River, recently presented their report, which has been transmitted to Congress. As to the progress of the work, they report that "both jetties, to within 1500 feet from their sea-ends, are well advanced towards completion, but it is desirable that they should be in some portions raised and compacted to prevent the current passing so freely through them. The outer 1500 feet of each jetty is quite deficient in height and compactness, allowing the escape of a large percentage of the water of the pass, and require, therefore, to be raised and consolidated quite materially, and especially so at the sea-ends. Much material has been expended on these ends, but they continue to settle. The outer 330 feet of the east jetty as originally built, and the outer 280 feet of the west jetty have altogether disappeared, and the contractor has decided not to attempt to rebuild the lengths thus lost. No estimate can now be made of the cost of producing the required channel of 30 feet deep by 350 wide, if such a channel ever can be produced. On the 28th of December, 1878, there was 23 feet depth over the bar at the mouth of the South Pass. Although the depth over

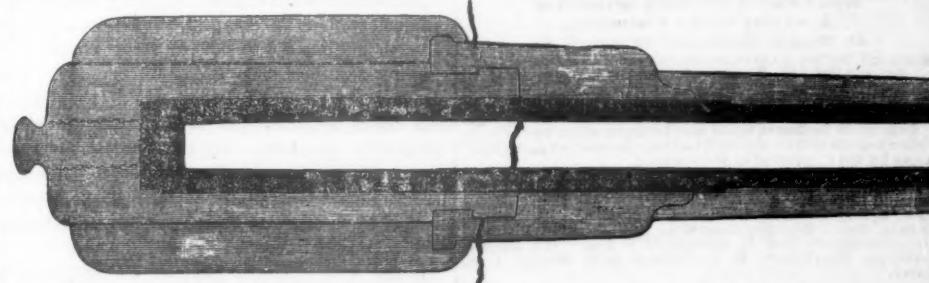
the bar is 8 inches less than it was a year ago, the bar is narrower, and there has been a marked general improvement in the channel within the jetties. It is much more regular in form, and there has been an average increase in depth of 2 feet in the lower part of the jettied channel, and from 6 to 10 feet in the upper part. Outside of the jetties there is no present appearance of bar advance, and though during the past year soundings indicated variable conditions during different months, at the end of the year a scour of 22 inches is shown in the 1 1/4 square miles just seaward of the jetties, where during the preceding year there had been a resultant average fill of 5 inches. The channel at the head of the pass has somewhat deteriorated during the past year. The depth over the shoal at this place is about the same that it was a year ago (22 feet), but the bar, which was then 350 feet wide, is now 850 feet wide. The board is of the opinion that if the jetties are raised and consolidated, so as to confine to the channel-way the greater part of the water now escaping by lateral waste, it may be possible to procure a depth of 25 or 26 feet over the bar, without regard to width, which corresponds to occasional depths of 27 or 28 feet. At the head of the pass Mr. Eads expects to procure the depth of 26 feet required by the contract by still further diminishing the cross section of the Southwest Pass and Pass a l'Outre, if necessary. The board is not fully confident that that alone will suffice.

The jetties may be considered as fairly permanent, except the outer ends, for a distance of about 1,500 feet. Here the chief difficulty is due to the softness of the bottom on which the jetties rest. Experience indicates that they will continue to settle, and will therefore require to be raised from time to time. As the gain of each foot in depth of channel is of much importance to commerce, the board recommends that the act of 1875 be so amended as to authorize the payments for each foot instead of two feet, the aggregate to be paid remaining the same, and, as the contractor represents himself as laboring under serious financial embarrassments occasioned by large outlays beyond what he has received, which will prevent his prosecution of the works toward completion beyond what can be done with the advances to him already authorized by Congress, the board further recommends an additional advance, if needed, to complete his project, of not exceeding \$250,000, the expenditures to be made according to the conditions prescribed by section 8 of the act of June 19, 1878. The members of the Board are J. G. Barnard, J. N. Macomb, Z. B. Tower, H. G. Wright and Wm. E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

## THE GUN BURST ON THE THUNDERER.

An English writer, commenting on the explosion of the great gun on board the *Thunderer*, is inclined to attribute the disaster to a deficiency in the longitudinal strength of guns of that description, the steel tube being the only tube continuous from end to end. When a ring-crack occurs in the steel tube, besides the friction of the outer coiled iron tubes and the dovetailing which holds them together, there is little to prevent rupture. In order to diminish the stress on large built-up guns, he proposes that instead of having an increasing twist toward the muzzle the rifling should be uniform from end to end, and, to secure additional strength, he considers it desirable that an outer tube of wrought iron or gun metal should be made to reinforce the inner steel tube.

The cut which we herewith reproduce from the London *Graphic*, shows where the fracture occurred:



Experiments with the 38 ton gun on board the *Dreadnought*, at Portsmouth, Eng., suggested by the accident to the *Thunderer*, go to show that without a load the projectile will slip at seven degrees and over, but that with a load the shot runs no chance of starting at the angle used for loading. At 14 deg. the force of the shot to move forward is 1 in 4, or, allowing for friction, the tendency does not exceed 80 lb. even in a clean gun, while on the other hand the wads provided for the ship are found to require over half a ton and upwards to pull them out. At 8 deg. the tendency is 1 in 7, or 100 lb., but, deducting the same allowance for friction, the result is an equilibrium of force. The most unexpected result of the experiment was the discovery that the vacuum which was found to be produced in rear of the projectile, and the tendency of which was to pull it back was only to an infinitesimal degree less appreciable than the vacuum found in front, and which had a tendency to pull it forward.

The experiments thus far have proved entirely satisfactory so far as the system adopted for loading is concerned. This is the report as published in *Iron*. Another account in the *Naval and Military Gazette* says: Guns of all the heavier descriptions, such as are employed on board ship, were loaded with their

muzzles depressed as they would be if loaded by the hydraulic apparatus on board the *Thunderer*, and in every case it was found that the projectile slipped. With the 38-ton gun, and others rifled on the same plan with an increasing twist, the grooves are almost straight for the first foot or so, and the shot was in nearly every case arrested just at the commencement of the twist, leaving between its base and the cartridge a space of thirteen inches.

As to the question whether a gun is endangered by the slipping of the projectile, which has been revived by the accident on board the *Thunderer*, a correspondent of the *Editor of the Army and Navy Journal* writes as follows:

SIR: The discussions as to the probable cause of the bursting of the 38-ton gun on board the *Thunderer*, has brought to light that the old idea that the bursting of a gun might be accounted for by the supposition that the projectile had slipped forward, is still entertained and advanced. The *London Engineer*, January 10th, says: "The bursting of a gun might be accounted for by the simple supposition that the projectile had slipped forward;" and adds, "this scarcely meets the case when the gun bursts with such astounding violence."

The idea that the projectile having slipped forward would bring any increased strain upon the gun is an erroneous one. On the contrary, the strain is lessened by the projectiles being separated from the charge. We can understand this when we consider the conditions of the case when the projectile is home and when it has slipped forward. The inertia of the projectile being the same whatever its position in the bore may be, the same amount of pressure is required to move it whether it is in contact or separated from the charge; so that the strain upon the gun, due to the inertia of the projectile, will be the same in all its positions. It only remains to consider the generation and pressure of the gases in the different positions.

Powder burns more rapidly in a confined than in an expanded space, as the gases, being more compressed, generate more heat, and the ignition of the charge is accelerated. Again, the more rapid the ignition, the more rapid the formation of the gases, and consequently the greater the pressure; so that when the projectile is home, we have the generation of gases in a confined space, and in consequence more rapid formation and greater pressure than if the space were expanded by the separation of the projectile from the charge. In this latter case the charge burns more slowly, and the pressure is more gradually communicated. Another fact is that, when the projectile is separated any considerable distance from the charge, the latter has not time (owing to the less rapid ignition) to be fully consumed before the projectile has left the bore, so that a portion of the charge has no effect upon the projectile, and consequently brings little or no strain upon the gun.

This has been verified by experiments which were carried on at Cold Spring, N. Y., in 1865, by a board, of which Commodore Jeffers, the present Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, was a member. In their report they say: "There have been also fired, by the board, several series, consisting in all of one hundred and eight 100-pdr. shells, placed successively 5, 10, 15, 20, up to 75 inches from the full charge of 10 pounds of powder, which showed that the position of the projectiles so placed lessens the recoil and does not endanger the gun, while it does materially lessen the range of the projectile."

This is in exact accordance with what we should expect, and the lessening of the range was due to the fact that the charge burned so slowly in the expanded spaces that the projectile had left the bore before the whole of the charge had been consumed.

These facts are well known to all who have given particular attention to the subject, but there are still

many who adhere to the old idea that it is very dangerous to the gun to allow the projectile to slip forward. The principal effect of the slipping forward of a projectile is not to bring any increased strain upon the gun, but to lessen the range. There are other effects, particularly in rifled guns, but I will not discuss the subject further as I merely wish to call attention to the fact that the slipping forward of a projectile does not endanger the gun.

THE ice boat *Lucile*, owned and sailed by "Captain" Winslow, of Poughkeepsie, is reported to have made seventy miles an hour, in one case making the extraordinary run of nine and one-half miles in seven minutes and ten seconds, or nearly eighty miles an hour.

A COURT-MARTIAL is at last to investigate the case of the Grosser Kurfurst and the Konig Wilhelm. The following officers have been summoned to take their trial before it: Rear Admiral Batsch, commanding the squadron; Captains Count Monta and Kuehne, commanding respectively the two vessels; and 1st Lieut. Klaus, who was in charge of the Grosser Kurfurst at the time of the collision.

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THE Secretary of War has authorized the formation of a team of regulars from each of the three military geographical divisions (commanded respectively by Lieut. Gen. Sheridan, and Major-Generals Hancock and McDowell), to compete at the fall matches of the International Rifle Association. This prompt and early action on the part of the military authorities will much assist the efforts of those of the Army interested, and doubtless increased efficiency and prospects of success will result.

A RUSSIAN translation has just been published of the privateering voyages of the *Cumber* and *Alabama* by "The Committee for the Organization of a Volunteer Fleet," of which the Czarevitch is president, and the *Nova Vremya* thinks that "it has an important, practical and contemporary significance as regards the questions now mooted with respect to the raising of privateers, and to the use of which such a fleet might prove in case of a rupture with England."

#### U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1879.

Office, No. 245 Broadway, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

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#### THE ARMY BILL.

OUR record of the extraordinary adventures of the Army Appropriation Bill, in its passage through Congress, now reaches new stages. Properly a bill of a single section, supplying money for routine expenditures, this measure, when it left the House of Representatives, February 8, had been swollen to fifty-four sections and thirty-two printed pages; it contained not only the appropriations proper, but the combined Army legislation of Messrs. BURNSIDE, BANNING, BUTLER, HEWITT, WHITE, and other Congressmen, or, at least, the essence of their various propositions. It had gorged a large part of the Joint Commission's work, and was fearfully distended in consequence. Nevertheless, thinking the bill not full enough, and that, as in the horse car, there must be always room for one rider more, Mr. COCKRELL introduced a proposed amendment; Mr. PLUMB, two others; Mr. FERRY, a fourth; Mr. WALLACE, a fifth; Mr. ANTHONY, a sixth, affecting six different sections; Mr. DORSEY, a seventh, eight pages long, and returning to the original HEWITT bill; Mr. BURNSIDE, an eighth, nine pages long, remodelling the bill, and adding a couple of sections to it; Mr. SPENCER, a ninth, proposing an entirely new scheme of Army organization; Mr. THURMAN, a tenth—and so on.

Bewildered at the prospect, the Senate Appropriation Committee did the wisest thing possible, considering that the session ends next Tuesday. It cut off Army reorganization at one swoop—the plan that had come up from the House, and the various substitutes suggested. By the remarkable vote of 45 to 18 the Senate sustained this decision; and besides thus cutting away, at one stroke, the bulk of the bill, it began to lop off most of the remaining sections one by one.

In the first section, or support bill proper, it increased the aggregate appropriation for the pay of officers and men from \$9,880,000 to \$10,000,000. This increase was at the special request of the Pay Department, and on good reasons. Next, it struck out the clause that forbids commutation for servants' quarters, and that allows \$11 instead of the present \$10 commutation for officers' quarters. The ground of this action was that the clause read "No allowance shall be made for claims for quarters for servants heretofore or hereafter," which forbids the payment of claims already accrued. So the committee resolved to strike out the whole section, and the Senate agreed.

Next the total mileage allowance for officers was increased from \$170,000 to \$200,000; mileage was allowed for travel on the frontier, on duty, in other ways than by railroad, and the provision of the Appropriation act of July 24, 1866, prohibiting mileage for travel on railroads on which troops are entitled to ride free, was repealed. All of these

mileage amendments are beneficial to the Army, and we hope the House will agree to them.

The next amendment was, in line 122, after the words "Revised Statutes," to insert "not exceeding;" so as to make the proviso read:

Provided, That to the cost of all stores and other articles sold to officers and men, except tobacco, as provided for in section 1149 of the Revised Statutes, not exceeding 10 per cent. shall be added to cover wastage, transportation, and other incidental charges.

This amendment is also obviously advantageous to officers, by opening the possibility of not charging 10 per cent. where so large a charge would not be just. Two minor amendments, touching appropriations for Signal Service sergeants and Ordnance workmen, completed this part of the bill.

Next, therefore, came section 2, which provides for codifying and publishing to the Army all the Army regulations and general orders now in force. This, we are glad to learn, was agreed to.

Then followed a long debate on the bill from section 3 to section 47 inclusive; and the result was, as we have already noted, that they were stricken out—the tone of the preliminary discussion being that it would be unjust alike to the reorganization scheme and to the Army to undertake legislation so revolutionary at the fag end of a session. Out of the general wreck a persevering Senator, Mr. COCKRELL, of Missouri, succeeded in rescuing the clause which gives the young officer who acts as the Examiner of State Claims at the War Department, the pay, etc., of one grade higher than his rank. This was allowed to pass the scrutiny of the Senate; as if to give a humorous turn to the work of Army reorganization by presenting this as the net result of the labors of the joint commission and the two Houses of Congress.

Section 48, on credits of volunteer service to officers, in reckoning pay, then followed the fate of its predecessors; and, so, very soon, did Section 49, giving the option of \$750 and mileage to each member of the next two graduating classes at West Point, in place of appointment to the Army. Section 50, on paymasters, was then stricken out—its provisions were explained in a recent number of the JOURNAL. On section 51, which forbids the employment, under heavy penalties, of troops to keep the peace at the polls, there was more difference of opinion, but it was stricken out by 34 to 33. But when section 52 was reached, amidst the general havoc in the House bill, a curious exception, by a vote of 29 to 28, was made in favor of retaining the unimportant provision allowing spare small arms and field artillery to be issued by the War Office to colleges and universities having at least 150 male students, for the purpose of instruction in their use. Section 53, detailing an Army officer to supervise Indian education, and the 54th section, repealing the provision of last year's bill requiring Government headquarters to be in Government buildings or barracks, were retained.

Then an item of \$50,000 was added for building a fort in Northern Nebraska or Dakots. Finally, Mr. BUTLER's famous railroad telegraph clause, after an amendment requiring a written acceptance of obligations incurred, was passed by 28 to 31, the item reading as passed, thus:

For cost of telegrams; and telegrams are authorized to be transmitted by railroad companies which have telegraph lines, and which shall file their written acceptance of the restrictions and obligations imposed on telegraph companies by title 65 of the Revised Statutes for the Government and for the general public, at rates to be fixed by the Government according to the provisions of title 65 of the Revised Statutes.

To sum up days of discussion and voting, therefore, we find out of the House Army bill, 54 sections long, that there were left by the Senate only sections 1, 2, a part of 3, 53, 54—four and a part of another in all. As we write, the amendments of the Senate have been non-concurred in by the House, and the bill is before a conference committee.

#### SERVICE MUSIC AND SIGNAL CALLS.

UNDER the title "Drums, Fifes, Bugles and Trumpets," a correspondent presents in this week's JOURNAL a series of thoughtful, interesting and valuable suggestions. His historical reference to the changes that have come about in the purpose and aim of army bands, is indisputable. We may still understand the "Dinna ye hear it?" incident of Lucknow, for the Scotch bagpiper whose drone thus fell upon the preternaturally acute ears of Jessie Brown, are useful on a march, as are drums and fifes. But that other story, the mate to Lucknow, of the English storming Sebastopol to the music of "Aan Laurie," sounds already like the legend of a by-gone genera-

tion. In how few of the battles of our great civil war was music played! For that matter, in how few forced marches, such as that at Lucknow, or even in ordinary marches, were the bands wont to tune up! Sometimes they got to work after a battle, in case the night were not far spent; but usually, where bands existed at all, they had too much work in marching for wasting their breath in playing; and they had too much ambulance work and hospital work on the battle field, if not actual fighting, to be playing "Annie Laurie" or anything else.

Then, in the matter of the skirmish calls, it is historically indisputable that in not one case in fifty was skirmish-drill done by the bugle or trumpet—and very little skirmish-drill, for that matter, was done at all. But now that the open order is the formation of the future, the formation of "our next war," as de Navarre puts it, the question started as to the simplification of the music is of high importance. The idea thus put forth seems to us very valuable, and worthy of being taken up in other services as well as our own. If the navy whistle, here suggested, be disapproved for any reason, we should be glad to see other substitutes and indeed other codes of signals suggested. We think, however, anything less simple than the one drawn up by de Navarre could not easily be invented.

Another, and quite different, suggestion, also well worthy of study, is for the simplification of the manual of arms. Here there is scope for much difference of opinion. It is doubtful whether the manual of arms, the greater part of which is almost out of place on the battle-field, should be arranged, merely to suit simplicity of signal call. It would be better, we should say, to limit the number of positions that can be taken with the arms by signal to a few, the only important ones, apparently, being the right shoulder, trail, and charge-bayonet. On parade, as the voice carries about as far as the eye, there is no objection to using it instead of the code of instrumental calls, and even some advantage. However, this is a minor detail, and does not affect the good argument for reducing and simplifying the manual on other grounds.

As to the drums, fifes, and the military bands in general, we must say that we should be sorry to see them lost altogether. Utility would gain a fatal conquest by their abolition. We incline to think there is a close analogy between this matter of musical instruments and the matter of weapons and equipments—that is, that the true course is not to insist on carrying about and using at times what may—like the sabre, or bayonet, or knapsack—be at some times only a useless weight and burden; on the other hand, it is not necessary to cast out altogether these same weapons and equipments, simply because they are sometimes not used. The distinction between service suit and dress suit has always been recognized; and the distinction between campaign music and camp and garrison or recruiting-station music is also as clear.

#### AUREA MEDIOCRRITAS.

The praises of total abstinence from alcoholic liquors have so long been sounded, that one is rather puzzled to see a zealous movement springing up that contents itself with moderation in drinking them. And yet, if we reflect, *in medio tutissimus ibis* is one of the old phrases of Latin grammar days, and *ne quid nimis* is another relic of antique wisdom. The French have their *juste milieu*, as we have our "golden mean;" so now, giving body to this saying of many ages and languages, we read in the New York papers of a Business Men's Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Moderation. Its chief aim seems to be to abolish, so far as its members are concerned, the infinitely injurious American custom of "treating." This, in our opinion, connects the subject with the Army and the Navy; for where there are organizations of men, and those men are proverbially generous, sociable, and open-hearted, the custom of treating has a stronghold.

Now, it will hardly be necessary to formally argue about the evils of treating, because the practitioners and victims of it know them all by experience. We recall having said a word on the subject in an earlier number of the JOURNAL. Three men meet, and, because they meet, a drink is in order. To refuse is thought shabby. Yet perhaps only one of the three is in a fit state to drink. The others may have that to do which should cause refraining from liquor; or perhaps they may already have had enough. Yet custom makes men

consent to drink on invitation from others, when they would not drink if alone. But that is not all. When No. 1 has had his treat, No. 2 and No. 3 feel that they must return the compliment. Three rounds of drinks go, where there should have been none. This bad custom has all sorts of evils—great expense, badly laid out; the unfitting of men for the daily routine of duty, and often the loss of great opportunities; and bondage to habits of drinking, which otherwise would not occur. It is clear that this matter has nothing at all properly to do with total abstinence, which is a different question, possessing merits of its own.

There is such a curious mixture of good sense and comicality in this new movement that it at once attracts interest. The *Herald* ambassador or aide-de-camp, vulgarly styled reporter, gives this account of what he heard a leading advocate of it say:

Our system of reform tends toward total abstinence, but by a gradual progress, and at the same time it recognizes the rights of the manufacturers and sellers of intoxicating beverages. We believe we shall gain an immense following among young men. I was asked by the members of the Congressional Temperance Society to perfect a plan for this movement, and they promised to co-operate with us, both by their advice and their influence.

The odd thing is that there are three degrees, as it were, of temperance in this scheme, symbolized by three cards, or pledges, a red, a white, and a blue. The red is the pledge of total abstinence during a certain, fixed period—the pledger fixing his own period; this card has a cut of the New York City Hall fountain, in full play. Next comes the white—a pledge to renounce drinking during the customary business hours; this has a water scene, with beavers building their dams. Third comes the blue pledge, which renounces "treating," and all its works, and is symbolized by a picture of a pelican with her young, and with the self-sacrificing motto, "I live and die for those I love." The verses common to the backs of all the cards, are amongst the most unconsciously humorous in English literature:

Why should you delay any longer?  
Turn about and reform while you can,  
Each day is the appetite stronger,  
Each day are you less of a man.  
The chains of the tyrant now sever,  
The flames of destruction subdue,  
To abstain from the wine cup forever,  
Is the only salvation for you.

CHORUS—We offer the red, white or blue;  
In the pledge there is safety for you;  
For the good and the glory of mankind,  
Hurrah! for the red, white and blue!

And you who refuse to surrender.  
The pleasure in which you delight,  
Oh! list to our plea as we tender  
The pledge, yes, the pledge that is white.  
Oh! strive to resist the temptation,  
When business attention demands,  
For the sake of your own reputation  
Let the glass not be seen in your hands.

And, though you are strong, there's a brother  
Who is weak, and, for fear of offence,  
Do not offer the glass to another,  
Or drink at another's expense.  
By even this slight self denial  
Just think of the good you can do!  
Then faithfully give it a trial,  
And take now the pledge that is blue!

We can only say that we should be glad to hear of a movement so good-naturedly charitable in its judgments and scope, spreading to the Army and the Navy, at least so far as to enroll great numbers among the men who are "blue;" then, by easy stages, they might pass to the loftier grades of innocent white and warrior red. If, after promotion in this highest stage of the moderation movement, they should feel prepared to mount to total abstinence, so much the better.

PERSONAL abuse of its author is one of the least pardonable and least honorable methods of opposing a bill in Congress. Sometimes in law courts, where much depends on the testimony of a witness as to what he saw or heard, it becomes necessary to show that the man is a liar; but even in law courts no advocate is justified in vilifying an honorable and upright witness merely because his testimony hurts the advocate's cause. In the case of legislation there is no excuse whatever for such personal tirades; and when a Congressman of high reputation introduces a bill which he believes to be just, berating him like a pickpocket for this act is disgraceful in the extreme. His bill is there, to be judged on its own merits, to be attacked with all the sarcasm, logic, illustration, or even all the billingsgate that anybody chooses to employ; but to slander its originator is an outrage.

A few days since, Gen. BURNSIDE gave the Senate some specimens of calumny wreaked on him by people who think he has not made the best kind of an Army bill. We also think he has not made the best kind of an Army bill; and we have no doubt that he would have made a much better, had he not endeavored to satisfy the reduction mania of his House colleagues on the joint commission. But we cannot conceive that mental attitude which accordingly

blackens Gen. BURNSIDE himself as a thief and a traitor.

Some readers may think this a strong illustration; it is the literal language employed in one of the batches of calumnies spread all over the country by mail, for the purpose of reprinting, and so doing him injury. One of these reprinted circulars declares that "BURNSIDE is the principal owner of one of the most extensive arms and tool manufactories in the United States," and that this is why his bill originally required the purchase of arms and ordnance from private manufacturers. It proceeds to say that if the reorganization bill passes, the vast works at Springfield "would have to be sold for a song, bought in by BURNSIDE." The same would be true of the Rock Island works, which would be bought in by "some members of the ring now lobbying the BURNSIDE Army bill through Congress."

Thus, by the use of his position as a Senator, BURNSIDE, if this bill passes, can legislate a million dollars into his pocket. The man who will use his position as a Senator or a Representative to legislate money or profit into his own pocket is a thief! There is no other term that can correctly express or describe his character. In this bill BURNSIDE is deliberately and intentionally seeking to legislate for his own private interest and profit, and against public interest and public policy. A man who will do that is not only a thief, but he is a traitor.

Thus, after starting with a false statement, as a premise, a man of honorable character is to be aspersed on that premise as a thief and a traitor!

Gen. BURNSIDE, referring to this slander, said in the Senate that he left the arms manufacturing business twenty years ago, and had not been engaged in it from that day to this; "and I have never allowed myself," he even added, "to express opinions or write letters touching the merits of the various competing arms." And again, he said: "I have never owned a share of stock in an arms manufacturing establishment since 1859."

The reputation ought certainly to go as far as the original detraction. The personal attack on Gen. BURNSIDE has been a great outrage. His work is in his bill, and to be judged of by itself. The bill is not so invulnerable to attack that the assault needs the aid of personal aspersions on its author.

THE *Alta California* declaims with much earnestness and just indignation against the shameful spectacle of the citizens of Alaska calling upon a British vessel for the protection which their own Government neglects to afford them. Surely, it says:

There must be men in Congress, men in the Cabinet, men of influence in the Army and Navy, who have families or family ties of their own, who cannot but feel a sympathy for others in distress, and who could, if they would but consider the question according to its merits, create a feeling in favor of protecting those people planted away up yonder toward Behring's Straits. A Government worthy of the name, is as ready to stretch forth its protecting arm over the weak and helpless, the poor and defenceless, as for the rich, the powerful, the strong, the many. "I am a Roman," was once an expression equivalent to protection. Why should not the exclamation of American citizenship? What have we a Navy for? Is it that its officers may have a good time in pleasant latitudes, while our freezing citizens are confronted by savage foes, and without support or protection from ship or platoon? Why cut down our Army while leaving five hundred thousand square miles of territory with people at the mercy of untamed savages? Are the citizens in Alaska any less citizens and entitled to protection because they are so far away? Has distance anything to do with the duty a nation owes to its people? . . . Let our happy tars down in the effeminate climate along the South American coast play the gallant to South American maids and matrons, while our own owe protection, life, and freedom from the pollution of the vice and loathsome savage, to the gallantry, humanity, and sympathy of the Briton. We have fought against him; we have fought with him, and are ready to do so again when fraternity calls. And we look now to the British navy for that protection which our own has failed to render.

It is easy to criticise our Navy when it does not appear at any given moment where it is most wanted at that precise instant of time; it would not be so easy to show how it could be distributed to better advantage than it is with the force at present at the command of the Navy Department. The five vessels cruising in the Pacific are not a very large force to cover a line of sea coast stretching nearly from one pole to the other. There may be an honest difference of opinion between the editor of the *Alta* and Admiral Rodgers as to how his little squadron can be best disposed, but we doubt not that they will agree in thinking that our naval as well as our military force, is shamefully inadequate to the work given it to do.

Of the Robeson investigation, the *Boston Journal* says very forcibly: "The public now has both sides of the Robeson case. The report of the majority of the House Committee made a few weeks since is shown by the figures of the minority report to be unworthy of public confidence. On the other hand, the failure of the minority to explain many transactions and the conclusion to which it arrives, namely, that the administration of the Navy Department under Secretary Robeson and his subordinates was

free from fraud, corruption or wilful violations of

he law,' can but be considered as a very weak vindication. A management which is only 'free from fraud, corruption and wilful violations of law' lacks those positive qualities of efficiency and watchfulness which should characterize the administration of a leading department of the Government. Mr. Robeson had charge of the Navy Department at a very important period—that following four years of active service. It was a period when the presence of a vigilant, industrious and firm man was required at the head of his department who would make his aggressive personality felt in every branch of the service—a personality which would have inspired every subordinate. This quality Mr. Robeson did not possess. He was an easy-going man, who deferred much to subordinates—a man who possessed none of that resoluteness which is essential to succeed in the management of an expensive and extensive department of the public service. Mr. Robeson's failure was the result of his lack of force and industry. He was managed by the heads of bureaus, who, in turn, were influenced by the very men who should have had no influence. [The department was left too much to its own managing.] This is as much of a vindication as can be made of Mr. Robeson's administration of the Navy Department. It was not personally dishonest, it was simply inefficient. Either he was not equal to the unusual requirements of the position, or his good nature and his dislike of the arduous and disagreeable duties of the office rendered him unfit for the office."

An abscess in Shere Ali's leg is the chief current news from the Afghanistan campaign. It has been opened (the abscess) with success. A leading feature of the Zulu news is also personal, it being the departure of the Prince Imperial to join the English standards. He could not do better for himself and his fame. If the lad who had so ill-starred a "baptism of blood," not quite nine years ago, at Saarbrueck, quits himself like a gallant soldier in South Africa, he will be looked upon with more favor by Frenchmen, who have a soft spot in their hearts for *la gloire*. It is the son of his father who says now that he is going to South Africa in order to take part in a contest of civilization against barbarism. That is but a barbarous kind of civilization that purposes to crush out Cetewayo because he wishes to be a sovereign, not a vassal, in his own domains. The young prince really goes to win his spurs, and probably cares less for the contest between civilization and barbarism than he fancies. If Prince Louis does not acquire enough glory in Zululand to satisfy him, we suggest that he might take a hand in the next Indian campaign at the West. For the rest, the chief Zulu news is of the going forward of reinforcements, while the renewal of the campaign awaits their arrival.

In a speech in the U. S. Senate, on the Chinese Question, Mr. Sargent, of California, said: "The trade with China is not in the hands of Americans. Commodore Shufeldt, who has recently been sent in the *Ticonderoga* on its voyage around the world to foster American commerce, in a lecture which he delivered in Connecticut, I think it was, not long ago, spoke of his observations in China. He said that those great palaces or hongs formerly occupied by American merchant princes, when trade was great and flourishing, are now being deserted and falling into ruins as the trade itself has declined or has passed into the hands of the Chinese; that here and there an employee may be seen walking through the deserted halls where they still remain in American possession, but that the glory of American supremacy in commerce had entirely failed; that the Chinamen had taken possession of it. The Chinese are now rooting us out in the carrying trade in their own waters. They have had built a large fleet of four-hundred ton steamers and are taking away that profitable branch of business from America. In other words, as the thing now runs, within the next ten or fifteen years there will not be a vestige of commerce in China in the hands of Americans; it will be entirely in the hands of Chinese."

In the death of Field Marshal Von Roon, though at the age of 76, Germany loses a man worth more to her than ten thousand in their youth and prime. Of him the simplest and highest praise is to say that

he was one of the memorable trio to whom history will ascribe Germany's greatness in our day; for what Bismarck has been to statecraft and Moltke to strategy, Von Roon was to army organization. He was much more than the Stanton of Prussia, because he prepared the Prussian forces for their work before the work began, and not under the lessons of a costly experience; unlike Stanton, too, he understood the distinction between the functions of a war minister and those of a general-in-chief. The suggestion provoked by the death of Von Roon is that very soon all the greatest figures of the German war, including the Emperor himself, will have passed away; but a younger body of men, close on their heels, promise well to keep up the renown of Germany in camp and cabinet.

In the JOURNAL of February 15th, appeared a letter signed "Dick Deadeye," in which the pamphlet on "Air and Moisture on Ship Board," recently published by Medical Inspector T. J. Turner, U. S. N., was associated with the *Tennessee*. Dr. Turner writes us to say that "the only allusion to that vessel, in the pamphlet, is the copy of the routine from the original; nothing more, nothing less." He also informs us that he proposes at some future time to present his observations and registrations with regard to the *Tennessee*, "and begs to say to this dead-eyed person that he has not forgotten one single fact relating to his cruise." The subject considered by Medical Inspector Turner, in his pamphlet, is most important to the health and comfort of the Navy, and we hope to see it fully discussed. We have an interesting and valuable article on the subject from another officer of the Navy which we expect to find room for next week.

IN the *Jahrbücher für die Deutsche Armee und Marine*, Oct.-Dec., 1878, the "Sketches from Life in the Confederate Army" are brought to a conclusion. In his valedictory, the author says: "The deeds of the Southern army, which often compelled my admiration, I am now able to judge more impartially, especially as I was favored by fate to witness those of our own army. But through all the more recent great events, through all what I have lived to see, the time spent in the War of Secession shines like a bright and friendly star. The originality of character; the chaste, chivalrous feeling; the idealism continually reviving, even under the most adverse circumstances; the humble sacrifice of each single member for the success of the whole; the earnest, pious Christian devotion; the veneration which hallowed duty, and the charmingly gentle tone which pervaded in consequence the whole army, reminded me often of the olden times of knights and heroes."

It is not generally known, says the *Engineer*, Jan. 31, that more than twenty-three years ago a series of elaborate experiments was made in the United States at Washington Arsenal, with the object of determining the pressure in guns, which gave results of considerable value. The statement that such experiments were carried out will not be new to many artillerists, but we believe we are justified in announcing that little more is known about them. On the 20th of November, 1878, an "Ordnance Note" was published at Washington, which contains a very full report on these experiments, which were made with an apparatus invented by Dr. W. E. Woodbridge, M. D., in 1853, termed a "piezometer." "Among all the philosophical instruments that have been invented," it concludes, "this deserves to take a place as one of the most ingenious."

IN the preamble to a bill introduced into the Senate to appoint Geo. Foster Robinson a paymaster in the Army, Mr. Kernan, of New York, said: "It has been the custom in all times and among all nations to reward acts of conspicuous personal bravery, gallantry, and heroism on the part of those in the military or naval service by appointment to office or promotion in the service to which they belong." We are glad to see this formally stated in a document presented to Congress, for the Army and Navy were coming to the opinion that it had been entirely forgotten.

THE trial of the Lowell gun, which was to have taken place at Annapolis last week, has been postponed until next week.

THE Spanish military authorities have resolved on the use of carrier pigeons.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold him responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

### DRUMS, FIFES, BUGLES AND TRUMPETS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In the frequent discussions as to dress, equipment, changes of tactics and employment of the arms, scarcely a thought seems to have been given to our music, and I refer more particularly to our field music. No one seems to have considered that late changes in tactics necessitate an entire change in the communication of commands, and that the drum and bugle or trumpet perhaps belong to the "muzzle loading," and "double column at half distance" period.

Without going into a history of military music, it may be said that, among the soldiers of former times, instruments of a musical character were employed to inspirit the troops. This was the idea of general field music even as late as 1859, in Italy, in the charge of columns. But in the war with the South, little, if any, similar use was made of the field music; indeed, it may be said that such employment of music became obsolete. All soldiers of the infantry, in the future, being liable to service on the battlefield simply as light troops or skirmishers, the charge for columns will not often be sounded by drum or trumpet corps. In the "clouds of skirmishers" for coming battlefields, the drum and the fife will appear relics of an age that must soon be considered but a bridge between feudal times and modern necessities.

So, perhaps, the bugle or trumpet. It is a difficult instrument at all times, even for the instructed musician, and if he is so much unacquainted with music as to be unable to read the notes, he will never become thoroughly proficient. Paragraphs 178 and 364, Infantry Tactics (Upton) require that officers should "learn," and "should become familiar with the trumpet signals." After some years of service, I am compelled to say that but little or no attention is paid to said paragraphs, 178 and 364. They are practically dead in letter, and, so dead, will have but little value in our next war. Of course, I speak in a general way, for, since the war, several regiments (I have learned of two or three) have at times given much attention to instruction and to drills under the above paragraphs. So, frequently, here and there, single companies have gone through the skirmish drill at the sound of the bugle or trumpet, and perhaps in a fair manner, but more often, I fear, indifferently well. Well instructed musicians, i. e., musicians who could go out to-morrow with battalion company or skirmish commander, and sound, off-hand, as it were, the commands laid down for drill, are rare. But it must be remembered that, while paragraphs 178 and 364 seem to apply to commissioned officers alone, they are practically, in execution, applicable to every man in the ranks. Theoretically, the calls of the trumpet are not supposed to be translated by the officer for the men. If this were not the case, why, in our military organization, are there two musicians to each company? If line, but not field officers, are to use the voice in command, why give the company musicians? It would then suffice to give them simply to the battalion. It is thus conclusive that without verbal repetition on the part of the line officers, each private, to move in concert with his comrades in the contemplated movement, must interpret the trumpet call equally well with his captain or lieutenant.

It would seem, therefore, that what we need is an instrument so simple that, perhaps, two sounds at most may be produced—a long and a short sound, or two sounds otherwise distinguished, say shrill and dull. Then arrange a simple code after the Morse telegraphic alphabet: first, for the more important maneuvers of the battlefield; second, for the general, and many fast-becoming obsolete, maneuvers of the drill book. For instance, the single long sound might be designated by 1; the single short sound by 2. Then, might be represented:

(Guide, say, always centre.)	
Skirmishers, deploy, right front....	1 1 1 1 1 1
" " left " "	1 1 1 1 2 2
" " centre " "	1 1 2 2 1 1
" " right flank " "	1 1 1 1 1 1
" " left " "	1 1 1 1 2 2
" " both " "	1 1 1 1 2 2
Right " "	halt.....
Left " "	.....
Forward .....	1 1 1
To the rear .....	1 2 2
Commence firing .....	2 1
Cease firing .....	1 2
Rally by fours .....	1
Deploy .....	1 1 1
Rally by company .....	1 1 1
Deploy (as on centre) .....	1 1 2 2 1 1 or 2 2 2 2 2

These commands may be repeated twice, perhaps three times, at intervals of several seconds. I do away with the apparently unnecessary, in these calls, commands of execution, and thus at the frequent pushes in advance at within 800 yards of the enemy, save valuable time and precious lives. Further study might complete and much simplify even the above suggested system, which covers the more principal movements of modern skirmishing.

Under such a system, the entire code of signals necessary for the battlefield might be acquired by the dullest musician in an hour or two, while every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, and several privates (to fill the loss of the musicians in battle) might find an easy task, what is now an unsatisfactory labor of months. Indeed, it is well known among those who served during the late war (1861-65) that but few officers and men, whether Regulars or volunteers, became even fairly acquainted with the general drill calls of the bugle or trumpet, and this ridiculous result was constantly seen: that upon the sounding of a call, on

the skirmish line, or otherwise, a verbal interpretation was given by the colonel or other field officer, and this interpretation was repeated along the line or down the column by line officers. After the delay of this transmission, often subject to correction, through the mistakes of those not fully familiar with the calls, the command was at last ready to respond in the required movement. Such execution of a command would have been derided, I believe, even in the days of Canna.

By a continuation of the code, all the commands of the company, battalion, regiment or brigade could be given, and their acquirement and retention on the memory simplified by a systematic and assimilated arrangement. In the battle field of the present day the constant use of the voice must be discontinued. The captain and lieutenants of a company in the constantly advancing line of "clouds of skirmishers," become more or less exhausted, both from their rapid movements forward and from constant repetition of the general commands in the skirmish drill. Fatigued in this manner, they cannot, as a general rule, after several hours of combat, give proper attention to the manoeuvring of their commands.

Now, with a simple instrument of two sounds (perhaps a very shrill whistle, capable of being heard say 400 or 500 yards above the crash of mitrailleurs and needle guns), any private even may comprehend and readily acquire the calls for the general movements of company and skirmish drill. Officers who have been on the skirmish line know well the difficulty, fatigue, and unsatisfactory character of verbal commands, and will, I trust, admit that the use of the voice in commanding on the battlefield of the highly-scientific 19th century, seems almost barbaric, and proper only to the pike and sword hordes of ancient days. A true system of command must, in the modern roar of battle, be by signal, and these signals must be by sound, not by a motion or sign.

Some will object that by the abolition of drums, fifes, etc., garrison and ceremonial duties will suffer, forgetting that by the true soldier these so-called needs will be made secondary to the necessities of the battlefield. Does the absence in a man-of-war every evening, say of the "Wrecker's Daughter" or "Fra Diavolo," miserably rendered by old and service-worn musicians, cause the routine of the ship to be less exactly performed? These long marches of drum and fife in our tactics were originally intended (abroad) for great garrisons, cantoned in many houses on numerous streets, and not readily assembled, as from a single barrack room. Because of old, time-worn custom, they are not necessarily to be preserved in 1879. In fact, we must ascertain what formations, what movements, what calls are necessary to reach the battlefield and what are necessary for the battlefield. Then, study the simplest and most easily imparted instruction, and we have in a few weeks highly trained soldiers who now scarcely know their drills and commands when discharged.

During the late Franco-Prussian war the marines are said to have excelled in every respect the soldiers of the army. Yet, in many instances, they were maneuvered by the ordinary whistles of the naval service used by the officers. Similar use of whistles was frequently made by French reconnoitring parties at night in advance of the lines. And, why might whistles not be proper for introduction with the American service? Imagine for a moment a man-of-war at sea and struck by a sudden storm, and a boatswain's mate with a bugle or trumpet, wasting precious moments in the sounding of a bar or more of notes, with a verbal translation by the officer of the deck yet to follow, for the watch, or all hands on deck. With Peabody-Martinis, effective at 1,800 yards, seconds are precious in the terrible storm of lead from the enemy entrenched in our immediate front, and must not be lost, while a young lieutenant, ignorant of the music of any bar of the 30 to 40 pages of trumpet notes in the rear of his tactics, remains inattentive to the call for reinforcement from his reserve, and pushes forward in response only to a tardy signal with sword or cap from his captain in advance. Can any one doubt that this is the way our skirmishers will act in another war?

Again, under a system of signals as above suggested, each battalion or regiment of any arm could have its own number, and each company, even of the battalion (say, of four companies), could have its own call or number, as a ship at sea. In this manner, French regiments had for years their own calls, and how very necessary upon a modern skirmish line!

Further, with such a "tactical code" of calls, the individual characteristics of indistinctness, indecision and want of promptness in the utterance of commands would be greatly eliminated, and the present deplorable want of uniformity in delivery be done away with. Some may say, mistaken might occur. Scarcely, if at intervals of several seconds, there were one or two repetitions. A second or two mere or less would not materially affect the execution or success of any general movement.

Of course the preliminary instruction of the recruit, and even of the squad, would be, at first, by the use of the voice; but later, the manual of arms and the general movements taught in the squad drill, would be with the so-called "tactical code." Our manual, already much more complicated than the German, might be simplified. "Present arms" (and even "arms port") might be superseded by "trail arms," which, if so prescribed by tactics, would be as much a mark of respect; "support arms" might be thrown out entirely (I believe they have no such position in Germany), as it will be with the new magazine guns, sentinels be compelled to rest with changes of "right shoulder," "carry," "secure," or "order arms." So, "reverse arms" might be covered by "secure arms," the latter, if prescribed, being a sufficient mark of respect for the body of the dead. So,

with "rest on arms," or "parade rest," with bowed heads, would seem very respectful to the deceased.

We must admit that the best manual is that which, being of utility for battle, can be taught and made familiar to the most awkward recruit in the shortest space of time. For the militia or volunteer soldiery, and even for the regular troops, we want simply utility and simplicity; and in our garrison and ceremonial duties, as well as in those of the field of battle. With such truly American initiative, I am confident we shall become no less faithful, no less hopeful, certainly, no less charitable as soldiers.

"DE NAVARRE."

#### THE REASON WHY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: It is always pleasant to read a well written description of every-day facts, and on this account, if on no other, I have greatly enjoyed the "growl of the Line officer," copied from the N. Y. Times in your issue of Feb. 8.

On the matter of the "want of sympathy" between the Line and Staff, I want to have a little growl myself, not as to the fact, but as to the cause of the fact.

The constant efforts of the Staff at self-aggrandizement; its studied ignorance of the Line as a necessary part of Army organization; its easy assumption of superior knowledge, ability and value; its disposition to "set down" on any Line officer who presumed to have an opinion on any subject, might well create a feeling of impatience on the part of the Line, the outspoken expression of which would only tend to make the Staff more "set in its ways"—the reaction constantly widening the breach.

But "the differences" between Line and Staff are too decided to be accounted for by the above. It is not a mere "want of sympathy." While as yet it has not marred the social relations of these branches of service, it is officially getting to be a most decided dislike—almost a positive antipathy.

No adequate cause has ever been given for this unfortunate state of affairs. I will give you my opinion of it. The responsibility to a very grave extent rests with the general officers.

Each Staff officer, chief of a bureau, has immediate control of certain routine matters, and, as the assistant of the department commander, a general supervision of all matters pertaining to his branch of service in the Geographical Department.

They are, as rule, pleasant gentlemen, zealous, conscientious officers. The general may not want to be "bothered with every little detail." He, therefore, leaves it to their discretion to decide many questions, and, practically, each "runs his machine" without consultation with or interference from the department commander, and in doing so assume to give orders or write curt letters to officers far their superiors in rank and experience.

The general, as a rule, protects them in this course by assuming the responsibility; but not a few cases are on record where the Staff officer was forced to retract and apologize to the Line officer he had presumed to censure. All this creates ill feeling.

Again, at every Department Headquarters there is a vast deal of merely routine work; and the tendency in all offices, and with almost all officers, is to treat as routine, matters which should not be so considered. Communications involving affairs of importance are referred by the assistant adjutant general to the Staff officer having charge of the specific matter, and his views are often taken as conclusive, and orders given thereon, apparently without the commanding general having ever seen or heard of the case. An old colonel, lieutenant colonel or major is in command of a post. He has made himself perfectly familiar with all that concerns that post, its needs and capabilities, and is necessarily more interested in its welfare and good management than any other person can be.

He writes to the Headquarters Department requesting this authority, or recommending that action. The assistant adjutant general receives the letter, signs a little printed slip, reading, "respectfully referred to Chf. —— for remark," and has it pasted on the letter. In a few days it comes back to the assistant adjutant general with the remarks of the Staff officer in detail. Another little slip is pasted on, reading, "respectfully returned to Col. A. B.; attention invited to—endorsement which is concurred in"—and the letter goes back to the writer. The post commander has the mortification of knowing, that his opinion, as to what is fit and proper for his own post, is set aside at Department Headquarters, for the opinion of a Staff officer, his junior in rank, his inferior in knowledge and experience, who may not only never have seen that post, but in all probability never commanded a post in his life.

A colonel and brevet major general was in command of a post; one of the few so favorably situated that a captain and quartermaster had been induced to serve at it.

The colonel and quartermaster were socially and officially on excellent terms, but had a difference of opinion on one point. After exhausting argument they amicably determined to present the question to the department commander for decision. A letter was written by the colonel, stating fairly the question, without committing himself to either side, and forwarded to Department Headquarters. It was referred by the assist. adjt. gen. to the chief quartermaster of department "for remark." He referred it to the quartermaster of the district; he to the quartermaster of the post. He decided the question in his own favor; sent it back through the same channels; and in due course of time it was returned to the post commander, "decision concurred in."

Within three months a colonel has said to the writer: "I am tired of being snubbed by captains and lieutenants. I never write to Department Headquarters except on routine business."

This matter is getting more serious every year, and will continue to do so unless the generals take the command upon themselves.

To send for a Staff officer and obtain his views, verbally, upon any special case, will involve more trouble and labor than the present take-it-easy system, but it will pay in the end.

It will enable the general to know more of his department; it will keep the papers clear of the official decisions of the Staff officers; it will save the self-respect of the Line officer, who will have some reason to believe that the decision is made by the general, and that his views and wishes are not set aside for the opinion of an officer, his junior in rank, his inferior in knowledge and experience, and whose only excuse for having an opinion at all, is that he had political or personal influence enough to be appointed a Staff officer; and it will put an end to the most serious cause of "the differences" between the Line and the Staff.

FRONTIER, Feb. 14.

#### CELIBACY FOR YOUNG OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: As the Cadets at the Military Academy are discussing the question, as to whether second lieutenants should marry, perhaps the following extract from one of my recent letters to the Savannah Morning News, may not be uninteresting to your Army readers:

"It is well known in Army circles that General Sherman is stoutly opposed to the marriage of second lieutenants.

"During my visit to him last night, 2d Lieutenant Alfred Reynolds, of the 20th United States Infantry, called to pay his respects, being en route from Fort Brown, on his bridal tour.

"'What is your rank, sir?' said General Sherman. 'Second lieutenant' was the reply. 'Well, sir, you ought to be put to work on a farm.' To which Reynolds replied, 'If I had a good farm, General, I would gladly go to work on it.'

"But this didn't throw the General off the track, and he added: 'Second lieutenants have no business to get married. General Augur seems to favor it, and his young officers adopt the plan.' Of course General Augur, General Ord and other now distinguished officers, favor early marriages, having themselves set the example a long time ago.

"Although General Sherman is quite in earnest on this subject, his conversation with Lieutenant Reynolds was decidedly pleasant, and he finally congratulated this handsome young officer on securing such a charming bride. It is quite probable that future marriages of this kind will be smiled upon by the General of the Army."

SIDNEY HERRBERT,

ATLANTA, GA., Feb. 22.

#### A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Some of the letters of your correspondent "Ebbitt" are worth something more practical than to be printed in "letters of gold." They should be engraved on the bottoms of Congressional tumblers, where they would be likely to attract most attention.

O. D.

#### PATENTS FOR MILITARY INVENTIONS.—The following patents have recently been granted:

To L. A. Merriam, of New York, for a cartridge designed by him. The cartridge has an inside tube which contains a portion of the charge, said tube extending nearly, but not quite to the base of the projectile.

To John Shuster, New Haven, Conn., for a magazine for fire arms. The magazine consists of a series of half tubes connected at each end to chain gear which passes over sprocket wheels. These are actuated by a coiled spring, and the whole is operated by a sliding bar which engages with a ratchet wheel, the rotation of which releases a pawl, and the magazine is allowed to rotate one step so as to drop a series of cartridges into an open magazine tube below the magazine proper, wherein they are fed forward by the reciprocation of the sliding bar.

To J. L. Lay, of Buffalo, N. Y., a torpedo boat—charged with suitable explosive material, is operated from a vessel or on shore, and propelled by machinery within itself, which machinery is actuated through the medium of an electric cable containing several independent insulated wires paid out from the centre of a reel having a detachable core, said reel being located on the boat and connected with the shore or ship battery. Side or diving wings are provided, which are set at a predetermined angle before starting the boat, and retained in that position, and also steering rudders, supported above and below the boat on an axis passing vertically through the same, are operated by a separate engine, the stock of said rudders being furnished with a horizontal geared arc, the lower surface of which is set with downwardly projecting contact pins; also springs, connecting electric wires, and suitable indicating devices located at the operating station, whereby the position of the rudder is indicated to the operator, the engine stopped when it reaches its extreme position, and the steering of the boat kept under his control. Two propellers of different diameters, one in rear of the other, and the forward larger one supported on a revolving sleeve surrounding the main shaft, are so geared to each other that the screw propellers move in opposite directions and with different velocities. A gas-containing flask is provided with a pipe leading from it to the engine, and a pipe leading to a valve which controls the admission of water to the water compartment, so that the water valve is opened when the engine is in motion and closed when the engine stops, by which arrangement of parts, and other suitable devices, the loss of weight of gas, when the engine is in motion, is compensated for by the admission of water. The exploding charge or magazine is contained in a separate detachable section at the bow, said section being mechanically detached by a sliding rod in the bow coming in contact with an opposing obstacle, while the magazine is exploded either through the action of another projecting rod, which, being forced within the boat by outside resistance, cuts out one of the resistance coils to complete the electric circuit, or the circuit is completed directly from the operating station. A water compartment to absorb the gas after use, and an agitator to accelerate absorption, are used in connection with the ammoniacal gas engine.

To Benjamin B. Hotchkiss, of New York, for a machine gun. A stock or shoulder piece is attached to the gun, so that it may be manipulated from the shoulder, the recoil being taken up on the central pivot. The breech sight may be manipulated by the left hand of the gunner while grasping the handle by which he raises and lowers the gun. A system of rifling by which a different rate of dispersion to shrapnel and small projectiles from the different barrels is effected, and an automatic elevating and depressing mechanism is shown.

To Reuben S. Chaffee, of Springfield, Ill., for a magazine for fire arms. The force feed bars are withdrawn from the magazine by opening the magazine gate.

## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

**SEVENTY-FIRST NEW YORK.**—The annual reception of this regiment, in celebration of Washington's Birthday, was held at their armory, Thirty-sixth street and Broadway, on February 24. The main drill rooms were most tastefully decorated with flags, bunting and flowers, while the several companies vied with each other in beautifying their quarters and arranging for the proper reception of their guests. At about 9 o'clock the orchestra, under the direction of Bandmaster John Ooca, opened the festivities, which were continued without intermission until early morning. The reception was well attended, the dancing floors being filled during the whole night, while in the quarters of the several companies music and song relieved those fatigued with the quadrille and waltz. A goodly number of special guests had been invited, among whom were Governor Robinson and staff, Mayor Cooper, Gens. Shaler, Heusted, Vilmar and staff, Governor McClellan of New Jersey, the Fire and Police Commissioners of New York city, and various other dignitaries, many of whom put in an appearance during the evening. The 1st and 2d Divisions were well represented, showing the great popularity of the old American Guard. The reception was under the management of the following committees, all of whom deserve great praise for the unselfish and devoted manner in which the guests of the regiment were looked after and entertained: Arrangements—Surg. J. D. Bryant, Chairman; Capt. Belknap, Lieut. Kershaw, Spaulding, Belton. Reception—Col. Vose, Chairman; Lieut.-Col. Chaddock, Maj. McAlpine, Adj't. Stevenson, Q. M. Ripley, Assistant Surg. Allen, Commissioner Hess. Floor—Capt. Hoffman, Chairman; Lieut. Servera, Sergt.-Maj. Wyatt, Sergt. Hamilton, Dr. Hammond, Baldwin, Corps. Lawrence, Munson, Frazier, Belton, Davis, Priv. Genet.

**SIXTY-NINTH NEW YORK.**—This command was instructed in the school of the battalion at the State Arsenal on Feb. 24, the assembly being sounded at five minutes past eight o'clock. The command was equalized into ten companies, twelve files front, and turned over to Col. Cavanagh at 8:35, the formation being a vast improvement on former efforts, although the eighth company in line did not order the "support" until after the command guides post. The column of four march was very ragged and slow, 92 to the minute; distances, however, were well preserved. Close column movements were almost immediately taken up, those on first division right and left in front, with the deployments, being very smooth, and as the step had increased the execution was prompt. After a second march in column of fours, companies and divisions were formed by the Austen-Morris system, and marches in column indulged in. During these marches the step was increased to 122, yet distances and alignments were handsomely preserved. After forming divisions by an advance by the flank and a wheel by fours, "right by companies" was given. This was the first blunder of the drill, for the officers were all at sea and had not the faintest conception of what was required of them, excepting those of the first and tenth companies. After much bustle and confusion the movement was completed, and a wheel into line excellently executed. After again forming, column on right into line was ordered, not a single company executing the "turn," but coming into line by a wheel. The lieutenant commanding the fourth company in line did not halt, but ordered the dress from the march. The movement was repeated with little better success. After a few more plowments from a march, and deployments all quite good, right of divisions rear into column met the usual success of this movement. Repeated marchings by divisions, companies and fours, with wheels into line, were all well executed. The company commanders were most prompt in dressing after these wheels; but the distances had been so well preserved that the several lines were almost perfect or the dress was announced. A few movements in the manual, fairly executed, except the "order arms," which was far too heavy, closed the drill. During the evening the men were most attentive, ready and willing to learn, so that on the whole this drill, though not near what it ought to be, was a decided improvement on the previous ones of this season. The officers as a rule endeavored to correct errors, while the guides were prompt, and in nearly all cases correct. We must again call attention to the straggling late men of this regiment, many of whom entered at 9 o'clock, yet were allowed to find places in the ranks, and urge Col. Cavanagh to order assembly at half-past 8 and then refuse admittance to all laggards. This plan has worked most satisfactorily in other commands, and would no doubt greatly benefit the 69th.

**TWENTY-THIRD NEW YORK (BROOKLYN).**—The Cadet Corps attached to this regiment were assembled at the Clermont avenue armory on February 21 for the purpose of receiving a stand of colors, the gift of Gen. Molineux, J. L. Morgan, Jr., and E. L. Kalbfleisch. Promptly on time the battalion was formed and turned over to Lieut.-Col. Partridge, when Gen. Slocum advanced to the centre, and, in presenting the colors, said: "A few years ago it would have been very difficult to form an organization like yours. Fifteen or twenty years ago the military profession was at a very low ebb in our country. It was difficult to get men of good standing to join any military organization. But a great change has taken place of late. The profession is held in higher esteem now, not only by the people of our great cities, but of the country generally. This is due in a large measure to the hard lessons taught us within the last few years." He then paid a warm tribute to the 23d regiment, stating that "the 23d is not only known and admired in our city, but known and appreciated throughout the length and breadth of the State. In a conversation with the Governor, a few days ago, he paid it compliments as earnest and sincere as its most ardent friends could desire. He said he happened to be in one of the southern counties where the regiment was called upon to suppress the riots. He told me their manly conduct and military bearing had the effect of suppressing disturbance without resort to violence, and attributed the fact that there was no bloodshed to your own regiment, in a great measure. I felt gratified to think that from the city in which I live a regiment should have gone forth so deserving of the compliments paid it by the Governor." He concluded with, "I ask you, young men, not only to try to be soldiers but to establish among yourselves a code of honor which shall make it desirable for the first families in Brooklyn to have their sons come into your midst. Let it be understood that none but honorable young men can come in here and you will need no recruiting officer. I take great pleasure in handing you these colors. You know their value. You know that men's lives have been sacrificed in preserving the flags of a regiment. Let it be your aim to prevent them from falling into unworthy hands." Col. Partridge accepted the colors on behalf of the Cadets, after which the command was formed for review. In line the youngsters acquitted themselves in a most satisfactory manner, while the march past was splendid, step, distances, alignments and salutes being fully equal to the work of the 23d itself. At the close of the review a dress parade was held, the boys again performing the details in a prompt and soldierly manner. They were then dismissed, and a dancing pro-

gramme indulged in, under the management of Lieut. Chas. L. Fincke, assisted by Cadet Corps. C. F. Barber, F. C. Dennington, C. F. Halsted, Fred. Kelley, E. F. Stohmann, W. H. Frothingham, R. B. Mitchell, Privs R. A. Ward, H. A. Carl, E. L. McGinnis, W. W. Campbell, S. H. Hubbard.

**THIRTEENTH NEW YORK (BROOKLYN).**—This regiment assembled at its armory on February 21 for the purpose of receiving the marksmen's badges, 1878, and to receive a new stand of colors from the State of New York. Shortly after 8 o'clock assembly was sounded, the companies quickly formed, and the battalion, ten companies sixteen files front, was handsomely turned over to Col. Austen. The ceremonies of the evening were opened with a review, General Jas. Jourdan, acting division commander, being the reviewing officer. During this ceremony the regiment plainly showed that time and attention had been given to company drills, while the absence, by late resignations of officers, who were noted for a blundering capacity, made it certain that the ceremony would not be marred. The inspection in line was excellent, the men, except two men in the third and one in the seventh companies, being remarkably steady, while the passage, considering the crowded ranks and limited space, was most satisfactory. At the conclusion of the review the victorious marksmen were called to the front and centre, were formed in three lines, the 28 being divided as follows: 10 four bars, 7 three bars, 20 two bars, and 61 having won in the last season. Captain J. F. Ackerman, regimental I. R. P., then handed the badges to the men, no formal presentation being made. After the retiring to their posts of these marksmen Gen. John B. Woodward, Acting Adjutant-General of the State, advanced to the front, and was received by Col. Austen. The color guard, bearing the old regimental colors, advanced to the front, while a sergeant brought out the new flags. Gen. Woodward then said:

"**COL. AUSTEN, OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE 13TH REGIMENT.**—It gives me great pleasure to appear before you tonight as the representative of the State Military Department, to surrender to you a new stand of colors which have been prepared for you, and I trust they will be cherished by you with the same regard and affection as the old ones. There are many men who will remember those old flags with affection and to whom they will call back many memories. I hope the new stand which the regiment receives to-night will be for all time, and that the same memories and associations will cluster around it as have clung in the past to the old colors, and that in the future it will be a proud thing for a man to say that he has served under those flags."

Col. Austen received the flags on behalf of the regiment, thanking the general and State for the honor conferred on the command, and stating that although the new colors would be borne in the ranks of the regiment, the old ones which had seen so many vicissitudes in the old 13th would not be forgotten. A few movements in battalion drill, principally consisting of fours formations followed, marred by the strength of the regiment and the small space in which to manoeuvre. The manual of arms during these movements was bad, each change in the manual causing a change of step. Fours left by companies and a march in column of companies right forward fours right, movements repeated and also repeated by divisions, all in good shape; upon wheeling into line by fours left the dressing was very prompt. A short exhibition in the manual closed the drill. An enjoyable hop wound up the evening's entertainment, the music being furnished by the regimental band, under Harvey B. Dodworth.

**SEVENTH NEW YORK.**—A Winchester repeating rifle having been presented to Co. F. of this regiment, as a prize for marksmanship, a committee was appointed by the commandant to decide upon the conditions and terms which should regulate the various competitions for it at the armory rifle range. Agreeably to the expressed wish of the donor, that some method of handicapping should be adopted, the committee determined upon the following plan, which, although it is somewhat faulty, owing to the very meagre and incomplete record of the previous practice of the members, they trust will prove satisfactory. Three classes or grades have been made in the company, subject to change by advancing the men as their proficiency increases. The first class allows two points to the second class, and four to the third class. The second class allows two points to the third class. Conditions—200 and 500 yards; five rounds each. Matches shall take place twice in each month, on alternate Tuesday evenings, at 7 o'clock, during the drill season and once in each month, on the regular meeting nights, during the rest of the year. The prize to be finally awarded to any member winning it conformably with the foregoing rules, three consecutive times. It is proposed to change the terms of the long badge match as follows: 200 yards, seven shots instead of five, as formerly. Number of competitors to be increased, to conform with the rifle match, the meetings to be held on the same dates with the latter.

In company Orders No. 3 Capt. Appleton announces the results of the election for non-commissioned officers, names of recruits and honorary members, and assigns his junior officers to special company duty.

On February 25 Sergt. Munson, Co. F. of this regiment, won the Long medal, seven shots, at 200 yards, 4 4 4 5 4 4 29. Private Langman won the first contest for the Winchester rifle, five rounds, at 200 and 500 yards, viz.: 4 3 5 4 20—4 3 5 5 21; total 41.

**FIFTH NEW YORK.**—Adjutant's call was sounded at 8:20 o'clock, at the State Arsenal, on February 25, and the regiment, equalized into eight companies of twelve files, not full, was formed for battalion drill, Col. Spencer receiving the command. The formation was defective only in the manner of carrying the arms, some companies entering the line at the carry, while others were at support arms. After a few movements in the manual the colonel turned the battalion over to Maj. Koss, the drill commencing with an advance in line, immediately followed by a plowment into close column on first division right in front. These movements were fairly performed, except that in the plowment the left division failed to break to rear in season to enter the column at the proper place. The deployment was excellent. These movements were repeated left in front equally well, although at the deployment the captains were very slow to order the support arms. Breaking column of fours from right to march to the left was very fair, while in the march column of fours the step and distances were almost perfect. The position of the pieces at the right shoulder, especially among the file closers, needs looking after, the hammer resting on the shoulder instead of the lock plate being up. On repetition the step was completely broken in the left wing and considerable straggling was observed. During the advances in line the lieutenant commanding the seventh company was slightly mixed as to which flank he should occupy, and the old maxim, "He that hesitates is lost," was fully demonstrated in his case. Double column was marred by the blunder of the seventh and eighth companies, while the distance in column was too close. The deployment by the right and left was excellent. In a backward march, merely to gain distance, the company commanders incorrectly took post on the flanks of companies. Lieut.-Col. Gimpel next assumed command,

executing a centre forward, and deployment by two movements. There was no necessity for markers in this movement. After forming double column, direction was changed by the right flank and line formed by two movements, excellently executed, except that the guides of the wheeling companies inverted their pieces. Several close column movements and deployments were in the main fairly performed, although the step was wretched during the deployments. A march column of companies was excellent, but at the wheel into line but one guide in the right wing stood fast, while those of the left wing all inverted pieces. These movements were repeated with about the same result, yet the errors were not corrected. After a few movements in the manual of arms, fairly executed, the battalion was dismissed, to be reformed for dress parade. The ceremony was fairly performed, the colonel being in command, the men very steady, and the manual fair.

**SERAPIAN TROOP B, FIRST NEW YORK DIVISION (WASHINGTON GREYS).**—Washington's birthday is a red letter day in the annals of the Troop, a reception and hop being given by the command to its friends on each recurring anniversary. On Friday, Feb. 21, the forty-sixth of these annual receptions was given at the Troop's armory, Forty-fifth street and Broadway, it being also made the occasion of the presentation of the marksmen's badges, 1878, and the medal presented by Morton Legion. The festivities were commenced at about 9 o'clock, at which time the quarters of the Troop were filled with handsome and beautifully dressed ladies, and their escorts, uniforms being in a large majority. Shortly after 10 o'clock, the thirty-three marksmen of the Troop, 6 being four bars, 8 three bars, 7 two bars, and 12 winners for the first time, were called to the front, when Brig.-Gen. Daniel D. Wylie, Commissary General of Ordnance, S. N. Y., and a former captain of the Greys, in a neat and happy speech presented the badges on behalf of the State. The Morton Legion medal to Quartermaster-Sergeant G. E. Pasco was presented by Colonel E. H. Kent, also a former commandant of the Troop. Dancing was then resumed, and continued until the early morning hours. During the evening the Troop was visited by officers and men of the various regiments, troops and batteries in the 1st and 2d Divisions, all of whom were cordially welcomed and hand-somely entertained. Though last, the forty-sixth reception of the Washington Greys was not least.

**THE MOODY'S DRUM CORPS.**—In return for a generous reception given them by the Connecticut boys last year, the drum corps of the 9th New York entertained those from Moodus, as they were more generally termed the "Moodus thunderers," by a grand reception and exhibition drill at the armory, West 26th street, on Feb. 24. It was half-past nine o'clock when the corps entered the main hall, the 9th in full uniform, with 15 snare and 2 base drums, 10 fifes and 4 bugles. The visiting corps followed with 6 snare and 3 base drums and 6 fifes, uniformed in scarlet jacket and cap, with light blue trousers. The appearance of the Moodus corps was fine, the "boys" nearly all having seen at least 40 summers, to say nothing of the winters; but their weapons of offence and defence caused much merriment, the drums being about twice as long as that usual weapon of noise, while the sticks were in proportionate length. But they could make noise, and the way the sticks flew was an astonishment even to the veteran Berchet. After the march and introduction, the visitors beat several selections in 6-8, 4-4, and 2-4 time, the "triplets" in Yankee Doodle, and the village quick-step being a magnificent effort in drum beating. The 9th corps, under Drum Major Hill, next came to attention, beating the regular duty or calls. The noise of Moodus must have somewhat upset the boys of the 9th, for the time was too much hurried, while in the reveille the "Slow Scotch" was very poor, and "Pianissimo" scarcely distinguishable. In the tattoo the "three cheers" at the commencement were omitted. The Moodus corps next beat bonnets of blue and hibiscus nob—double drag—both receiving well merited applause, and also several selections in 2-4 and 4-4 time. The 9th corps next followed in quicksteps, beating Nancy Lee in magnificent shape. At the close the corps were formed with Moodus in the van, to retire to quarters. During the march the band, under Professor Downing, struck up a funeral march, and the time being remarkably slow the "boys" from the nutmeg State could not catch the step, and a most ludicrous exit was the result. Dancing was then commenced and continued until early morning. The visitors cannot complain of a cheerless welcome for every drum corps in New York and Brooklyn was represented. West Point, and Governor's Island were on hand, while New Jersey had her quota, even Nat Jenkins in his magnificent "chamois" full dress uniform—which his boys call "Old Mousey"—was on hand; his mission being to stop all fights in the lower room. The reception, drill, and ball was a complete success and was enjoyed by all.

**MASSACHUSETTS.**—An adjourned meeting of the Old Guard was held at Young's Hotel, Feb. 19, Gen. Burrill in the chair. Additional officers were elected, viz.: Senior Lieutenant Commander, Gen. Robert H. Chamberlain; junior Lieutenant Commander, Maj. John McDonough; board of finance, Col. Charles W. Wilder, Col. A. N. Proctor, and Capt. M. Matheson. The vacancy of one member upon the board of examiners was filled by the election of Captain Charles W. Baxter. The following officers were elected to membership: Maj.-Gen. James A. Cunningham, Gen. A. B. R. Sprague, Cols. H. B. Wilder and D. W. Wardrop, Lieut.-Col. King, Major G. H. Marden, Captains W. R. Swan, Cyrus Savage, J. P. Jordan, and C. P. Whittle, Lieut. George A. Filebrown. The meeting was most enthusiastic and adjourned to March 12.

The following assignments are made in the 9th regiment: Cos. D, G, and H, will form the 1st Battalion; C, A, B, and E the second. Major George A. J. Colgan is assigned to the 1st Battalion, and Major Daniel J. Sweeney to the second.

**CONNECTICUT.**—Shraps Armory team shot a match on the 22d as follows: 220 yards, off hand, with military rifles, 10 shots to a string, 5 strings to each man: J. McCord, 39, 39, 40, 36, 40—19; Geo. Hull, 40, 43, 43, 41, 40—207; total, 401. Wallace Gunn, 40, 42, 39, 42, 40—203; Harry Nichols, 43, 40, 38, 44, 43—206; total, 410.

The promenade concert, exhibition drill, and ball of Co. B, 4th regiment, Friday evening, Feb. 21, was a success. A fine concert by the 4th regiment band was followed by an exhibition drill, in which the company paraded 16 files. The movements in the school of the company were well executed, both in single and double rank, and the manual of arms was good, the order arms particularly so, the pieces being lowered gently according to tactics, an example which other companies in the C. N. G. would do well to imitate. The company was then divided into two companies under command of Lieuts. Cornell and King for dress parade, Capt. Blakeman commanding the battalion; this ceremony was well performed. At the conclusion of the parade Col. Croft and staff stepped in front of the company, and Capt. Kingman, Regimental Inspector of Target Practice, was called for. Col. Croft, in a neat speech, presented him on the part of the field, staff, and line officers with an elegant gold badge, the captain was taken by surprise, but replied in a feeling speech, and although he can shoot well had to acknowledge they had scored one too many for him. There were present Gen. Smith and staff, Col. Croft and staff, Major Dot, Lieut.-Col. Fox, A. A. G., and many line officers, also many prominent citizens. Capt. Blakeman and his company are to be congratulated on the success of their entertainment.

Adjutant Admet N. Sterry, of the 3d regiment, has been elected captain of Co. I, vice Tibbets, resigned.

Co. F, 3d regiment, have elected Geo. Warren, captain; H. E. Leach, 1st lieutenant; James Arthur, 2d lieutenant.

Col. Barbour, with the field and staff of the 1st regiment, visited Co. G, Manchester, Friday evening, Feb. 21, and witnessed their exhibition drill. The company were found in good condition, both as to discipline and drill. The visitors were "feasted" with a bean cake.

Co. F, 2d regiment (Grays), have decided to give a ball after lent. This news will be received with pleasure by their many friends in New York.

**NEW JERSEY.**—The annual report of Major-General W. S. Stryker, Adjutant-General State of New Jersey, shows the entire strength of the National Guard of the State to be 3,182 officers and enlisted men, divided into one division, two brigades,

one battery of artillery, two Gatling batteries and seven regiments and one battalion of infantry, there being 234 officers and 2,142 enlisted men. He calls special attention to the rifle practice of the State force, and strongly advocates the passage of the law by Congress granting the \$1,000,000 appropriation, and placing the National Guard on a national basis. The Inspector-General, J. Augustus Fay, Jr., presents a full report of the annual inspections of the State forces, and states that the 520 absent from inspection were accounted for as 260 absent with leave, 48 absent sick, and 212 absent without leave. In the 1st regiment he complimented Companies A, C, D, and E, for full numbers and punctual attendance. In the 4th, Company E receives special commendation. In the 5th, Company H had no absences, while F and G had but one man absent. In the 9th, every company comes up to the required standard, and Company D is commended for its full ranks, not one being absent. The 21 Battalion is accorded great praise for general appearance, attendance, and discipline, while in the 3d regiment but four companies reach the standard. The same rule holds through the other regiments, while Company E, 6th regiment, and Companies A and D, 4th regiment, are condemned, the latter failing to pass inspection. General Fay recommends that the appropriation be withheld from Companies A and F, 3d regiment; B, 4th; E, 6th; and A and D, 7th, unless a subsequent inspection shall show that they actually have the requisite membership and are efficient organizations. Col. Wm. H. Sterry, General Inspector of Rifle Practice, submits a lengthy report on the practice of the past year, and announcing the names of the marksmen in each command, and complimenting the National Guard on its fine discipline during the occupation of the range. A roster of the commissioned officers of the State completes the report.

In accordance with General Orders No. 1, from brigade headquarters, the 4th regiment will parade in full dress uniform, at the City Armory, Nos. 27 and 29 Newark Avenue, on Monday, March 3, 1879, for the presentation of marksmen's badges.

Drill by division in fatigue uniform will be held in the 4th regiment, at the City Armory, as follows: Companies A, B, and D, on Tuesday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 25, 1879, at 8:30 o'clock P.M.; Companies C, E, and F, on Wednesday, March 19, and Thursday, April 3, 1879, at 8 o'clock P.M.

The twelfth annual reception of Company D, held at Library Hall, on Feb. 21, was a most complete success.

*Fifth Regiment.*—Marksmen's badges were presented to this regiment on Wednesday evening, Feb. 19. Gen. Plume, commanding 1st Battalion, delivered a lengthy and instructive address to the command, and thirteen marksmen received the badges.

**MICHIGAN.**—The report of Adjutant-General John Robertson shows that militia matters are "looking up" in this State, and various social and legislative doings of late seem to confirm what the Veteran Adjutant-General has told us, respecting the signs of the times. There are now twenty-seven companies in the State, organized into three regiments, and the men are all, or nearly all, armed with the new Sharpe rifles. In the matter of equipping men, etc., there are some things yet left undone, but at last the friends of the troops begin to see dawns of a brighter day, and it is confidently believed the time is not far distant when the force will not only be well armed, but well equipped and prepared for any emergency.

One hundred and twenty-one Michigan veterans have recently been admitted to the various "soldiers' homes," making 557 thus cared for since the close of the war for the Union.

Inspector-General Heath, in his latest report, says: "I trust that our next Legislature will so increase our military fund that we may have annual encampments, as the law requires. It is difficult, I might say almost impossible, to keep up a volunteer soldiery without the stimulus of some pleasant or useful occasion in prospect. Looking forward to the encampment stimulates the officers and men for months previous to renewed interest in the service. The battalion drill, guard, and other camp duties, together with the mutual exchange of ideas and experiences of officers and men will combine to prepare our citizen soldiery for the duties for which they were organized; namely: to protect and defend the people and property of the State in time of danger." Several other measures have been introduced, and so far there has been no clashing or confusion in the matter of proposed legislation on this subject.

Capt. S. B. Revenaugh, of Co. A, 1st regiment, has resigned. He will doubtless be succeeded by Frank Emerick.

Capt. McComas, of the Governor's Guard, at Lansing, has resigned; 1st Lieut. Eugene Angell succeeds him. Private W. C. Appleby has been elected 1st lieutenant, and Sergeant Robert Shunk 2d lieutenant.

Major J. Sumner Rogers, superintendent of the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, has been appointed aide-de-camp on the Governor's staff with rank as colonel, vice Jenney, elected Secretary of State. A recent act of the State Legislature makes the officers of the Academy also officers of the State militia, without pay or emoluments, and provides that graduates may be assigned to positions as ext 2d lieutenants in the State service.

The vacancy in the roll of officers of the 1st regiment, caused by the resignation and removal of Capt. Webb, of the Ypsilanti Light Guard, has been filled by the election of E. W. Bowen. This company talks seriously of building an opera house and armor.

Co. E, 3d regiment, (East Saginaw Rifles), has recently leased Bellevue Hall, a fine detached brick building, and fitted up thereto the best armory in the State. They have the entire building, with a clear drill room of 85x42 feet, parlors, company officers' rooms, baths, dressing rooms, individual lockers, central gunracks, janitor's quarter, meeting room, stage for music, band room, etc. They dedicated it with an elegant concert, exhibition drill, and ball, on the night of Feb. 21. This command is now officered as follows: Capt. Al. L. Buton, 1st Lieut. W. Glover Gage, 2d Lieut. Frank H. Doughty.

The Light Guard, of Detroit, recently gave a splendid reception to the Governor and his staff, at Whitby's Opera House, in Detroit. It was by all odds the "swell'est" social event in the State for years. Officers of the U. S. Army, U. S. Navy, and U. S. Revenue Marine were present, and also several Canadian general, line, and staff officers. Nearly every company in this State service was also represented, as well as every independent company.

**Ohio.**—*First Regiment.*—The presentation to the regiment of a stand of colors took place, after several postponements, on Saturday evening, Feb. 15, at the Belleview House. The regiment, composed of four companies present and numbering about one hundred men, were drawn up in line in the lower hall. Ex-Governor Thos. L. Young, Congressman elect from the First District, who represented the fair doves, delivered the presentation speech in his usual happy style, in response to which Col. Hunt read what proved to be a very neat reply, a surprise and gratification to his friends. The opportunity afforded by the occasion for the indulgence in "spread eagle oratory" was seized upon with avidity. As usual, it served only to provoke quiet sarcastic smiles among the hearers, which, however, orators in their lofty flights never stoop to notice. It will become soldiers, especially to boast, either of what they have done or intend doing; and the opening words of the speech of Major Benj. Butterworth, Congressman elect from the Second District, "It is the duty of a soldier to act rather than to speak," whether so intended or not, seemed to imply a rebuke. The applause of the men made a bad showing for the discipline of the regiment. The Lieutenant-colonel and major, instead of being in their places, were flirting around making themselves generally useful, and one lieutenant so far forgot himself as to leave his position and perch himself on a chair or table to obtain a better view. Such things would hardly have occurred in a regular regiment. Gen. Samuel F. Hunt, Judge Advocate-General, repeated an error that he has several times been guilty of by referring to himself as "the superior officer present, and consequently the commanding officer," forgetting that "no staff commission shall confer command except when expressly provided for by law, tactics, or the regulations," Par. 10, O. N. G. Code. This reminds us that at the last camp of the regiment, which he visited, he, himself a staff officer, in all seriousness appointed a gentleman as his "chief of staff with the rank of brigadier general." The colors having been presented, were received by the color guard in an awkward manner. The flags, which are a handsome stand, were accompanied by five company guidons, for what purpose, it would be hard to conjecture, unless it is intended to mount the regiment. Even with all the "corn-stalk militia" idea to which it yet clings, the 1st regiment of Infantry would hardly be suspected of parading with the colors of mounted troops. However, February 22, will bring

forth more light on the subject. The occasion, on the whole, while deficient in many of niceties and proprieties of ceremony, was a source of gratification and enjoyment to all participants, especially in the dance which followed it.

The Lythe Greys, Co. B, recently entered suit against some of its delinquents to recover back dues and fines assessed. The case coming up for hearing, the defense denied the existence of Co. B, 1st regiment, on the ground that the law requires that regiments be composed of not less than six companies, and that the 1st having only five, was, under the law, only a battalion. While this is true, it did not constitute a complete defense, because the same act provides that companies, without any reference to regiments, may enter suit in the name of the State for the use of such companies. Judgment was accordingly rendered for the plaintiff. Col. Hunt having published statements to the effect, first, that contributing membership certificates granting exemption from jury duty of the disbanded Washington Dragoons were of no value after the date of disbandment, and second, that Cos. A, B, F and H only were authorized to issue certificates in Cincinnati, we were applied to for our opinion, and as the questions interest the entire O. N. G. they are reproduced. Concerning the first, we decided that a contributing membership certificate, issued by a company having a legal existence for a period of not more than five years and paid for in advance, is valid for the period for which it was issued, because it is a contract between the State and holder, willfully negotiated by the agent of the State for a consideration, and that as no specified period or rate of consideration is mentioned in the law it is fair to presume that contributing members may be enrolled for the same period as active members, which is set by law as five years, and the law and Code leave the consideration entirely to the discretion of companies. In this we have since been sustained by competent authority. Regarding the second proposition, it is only necessary to state that as the certificates are principally designed to be used in the State and county courts though recognized in others, and as nothing in the law limits their use or value to any locality, except that they shall not exceed in number 15 per cent. of the voting population of any county, it is clear that the certificates of a company are good in at least the courts of the county in which it is located, and that the certificates of Co. B, located at Harrison and in the same county, are good in the courts in Cincinnati, the county seat.

*Thirteenth Regiment.*—A company, which will be assigned to this regiment, has been organized and mustered in at Delaware by Lieut.-Col. Curry. The muster rolls displayed sixty names. The amended petition of Col. Hunt for writ of mandamus in the army matter referred to by the JOURNAL last week, came up again last Saturday before Judge Burnett. In opposing the writ, the City Solicitor, Mr. Bates, denied the existence of a regiment in Cincinnati, claiming that only four companies were located here, with the one located at Harrison constituted only a battalion. The case was postponed for a week.

The 22d of February was observed at Cleveland in a quiet way; a morning and evening salute was fired by the 1st Light Artillery, and the only parade of the military was that of the "Grays." A heavy fall of snow a few hours previous rendered the marching difficult, but as it has been the custom of the company for the past twenty-five years and over to parade on that day, they turned out and had a creditable display.

The "Light Artillery Association" celebrated the 40th anniversary of its organization by a banquet. About twenty-five of the members were present, with a few others, who "stood among them, but not of them." Toasts were responded to by Gen. Barnett, Lieut.-Governor Fitch, Col. Brinkmann of the 15th regiment, Capt. Smithnith of the 1st Light Artillery, Capt. Frazer of the "Grays," Lieut. Wilson of the Gatling gun battery, Col. Hayward, Captains Paddock, Rice, Adams, and others, and a general good time was had.

Co. D, 15th regiment, give an exhibition drill and their annual reception this week at their arsny, which, from the "notes of preparation," we judge will be a brilliant affair.

An army for the accommodation of organizations of the National Guard of the city is soon to be erected. Necessary legislation has been secured, and plans for the building are being perfected, and if nothing unforeseen occurs it will be completed and ready for dedication by July. Representative Dempsey has introduced in the General Assembly a militia bill of many sections. The bill has some features which are an improvement on the present law, but the passage of the bill is doubtful, as this is the last session of the Legislature, and there is but a few weeks left. He proposes to style us the Ohio Volunteer Militia instead of the Ohio National Guard, our present title, a change which no one asks or desires, and which it is safe to predict will not be adopted should the bill pass.

The Adjutant-General is being "hauled over the coals" by a legislative committee, because last year he contracted for some 1,200 tents which were made and delivered, and for the payment of which no appropriation was made. The contractors now want their pay, and our legislative Solons are asking "why is this thus?" The Adjutant-General says: "Gentlemen, the law reads that the Adjutant-General shall purchase and keep ready for use, or issue to the troops, as the best interests of the service may require, such amount and kinds of camp and garrison equipage as may be necessary, to be paid out of the general revenue of the State." Now, under the law, I have performed my duty; the interests of the service require these tents, and I have purchased them. "But, Messieurs," the legislators exclaim, "shall the Adjutant-General set himself up against the law making power of the State, and attempt to dictate in this matter?" and they say with Timothy, "the law is good if a man use it lawfully." It is in the general opinion that the Adjutant-General is "solid" in this matter, but we venture to predict, that before these contractors receive their pay, they will be "sadder and wiser men;" not but what they ought to have their money, but when the law making power of the State considers itself, metaphorically speaking, set down upon, then it is that the iron enters into their legislative souls, and so they are "resolved to ruin the contractors" or to rule the State."

*Louisiana.*—Washington's birthday was most appropriately celebrated in New Orleans on Feb. 22 by a grand parade and review of the National and State troops. The weather was simply magnificent, and when at noon line was formed on Canal street, a hour drill could not have been found. At half past two the line was announced as perfected, the commands were wheeled into column and the line of march taken up. Of course the day was a holiday, and all business was suspended the streets were literally packed with citizens, while from every convenient post and window flags and bunting floated to the gentle breeze. After a lengthy parade the column passed in review before General Behan at Canal and Carondelet streets in the following order:

Battalion 13th U. S. Infantry, Capt. F. E. De Courcy, four companies in full uniform; marching and appearing as might be expected, the very perfection of highly disciplined troops.

The German battalion, three companies under command of Lieut.-Col. A. Reichardt, followed. This command has but lately been organized; it is uniformed after the style of the Prussian army, and gave evidence that it will not remain second to any organization in the State.

Battalion 13th U. S. Infantry, Capt. F. E. De Courcy, four companies in full uniform; marching and appearing as might be expected, the very perfection of highly disciplined troops.

The Crescent City Battalion came next, five companies, commanded by Lieut.-Col. C. E. Fenner. They wore a uniform similar to the 7th New York, and in general appearance and precision compare most favorably with the well known organization.

The Continental Guards, Capt. Wm. Pierce, paraded as the guests of the battalion.

The Washington Artillery were next in line, the three companies, commanded by Major Richardson, being preceded by the Veteran Corps, under Capt. C. L. C. Dupuy. This battalion is one of the oldest militia organizations in Louisiana, and having served with distinction in the Mexican war, bore in its ranks its battle flags inscribed with the names of its sixty battles. Repeated applause and cheers greeted its passage.

Six companies, 1st Regiment Infantry, commanded by Col. Ad. Meyer, a most thoroughly drilled and organized command, next passed in magnificent shape, ranks well closed, distances and alignments accurate. The 1st is one of the very best regiments in the State.

"Louisiana's Own," the 2d Regiment Infantry, Lieut. Col. J. D. Hill, four companies, passed in splendid form; salutes and marching excellent. The Mitchell Rifles were the guests of the 2d.

The infantry were followed by the Oricans Artillery, Col. A. J. Bichetieu, four companies, with the Francs Tireurs D'Orleans, Capt. Selle Tiro al Bersaglio, Capt. Astredo, and the Cazadores de Orleans, Capt. J. Llado, as guests.

The Louisiana Field Artillery, Col. John Glynn, Jr., three companies, brought up the rear, and for general appearance, precision, and discipline, though last were not the least. This command is in magnificent shape, and most thoroughly deserved the applause received as it passed the reviewing point.

The parade as a whole was perhaps the finest seen in New Orleans since the late war, and the general tone of the various commands, their fine state of discipline and steady marching, greatly impressed the spectators. After the dismissal the several companies and their guests partook of dinner and collations, while in the evening numerous balls were held, all being well attended. The celebration of the day was a perfect success.

#### VARIOUS ITEMS.

—*Mar.* Peter H. Reppenhagen, 15th New York Battalion, has been detailed as a court-martial for the trial of delinquencies and derelictions among the enlisted men.

—Lieut.-Col. John N. Partridge, 23d regiment; Lieut.-Col. George C. Bradley, 47th regiment, and Lieut. Col. Louis Bossert, 32d regiment, are the examining board 11th New York Brigade for the year 1879.

—The reception of Co. G, 47th New York (Brooklyn), at the Lyceum, on February 19, was pronounced a most enjoyable entertainment. The hall was crowded, the music of the best description, and the members of the several committees all that could be reasonably desired.

—The thirteenth annual ball of Co. A, 4th New Jersey, was held at McPherson Hall on February 19. The assemblage was of the finest description, among whom were Col. Dudley S. Steele and staff, and numerous officers of the regiment.

—The dramatic entertainment complimentary to Co. F, 23d New York, at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, on February 19, was a most perfect success. The plays were "The Wandering Minstrel" and "How She Loves Him," the cast being filled by the members of the Athenaeum Society. The performance was perfect and smooth, not a single hitch occurring during the evening, while the local hits in the burlesque or farce were received with uproarious applause.

—The board of examiners for non-commissioned officers—22d New York are Capt. Sam. Moore, Smith, Co. D; Capt. Chas. T. Smith, Co. C, and Lieut. Robt. Lepper, Co. G. The board will convene at the armory on the third Wednesday of each month.

—The veterans of the 22d New York held their annual dinner at the Metropolitan Hotel Feb. 24, General Aspinwall presiding.

—An order will be issued from the Adjutant-General's Office, State of New York, on March 1, extending the leave of absence, for 30 days, of Adjutant-General Franklin Townsend, and re-detailing General Woodward as Acting Adjutant-General. By the 1st of April General Townsend expects to be so far recovered in health as to resume the duties of his office.

—The 3d New York Cavalry held its annual reception and ball at its armory, Elm and White streets, on Feb. 25. During the evening a handsome dress parade was held by the command, at which the 62 marksmen of the regiment were presented with the State badge for 1878, as follows: 5 four bars, 5 three bars, 27 two bars and 62 one bar. The festivities were enjoyed by a numerous assemblage.

—Co. H, 15th New York Battalion (Brooklyn), has been disbanded, and the enlisted men ordered to be mustered out of service.

—The Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 4, at 3 o'clock P.M.

—Second Lieut. M. B. Nicholson, Yates Dragoons, Troop C, 10th New York Brigade, having been disqualified by the State Examining Board, Gen. Hawley has ordered an election to fill the vacancy on March 5, 1879.

—Dr. Hayes' bill permitting the 7th New York to issue bonds to the amount of \$150,000 in completing their new armory has been passed in the House.

—The Senate of New York State has passed the bill authorizing the Adjutant General to use for the benefit of other military organizations any and all moneys remaining to the credit of disbanded organizations of the National Guard.

—The 17th Separate Company Infantry, 2d New York Division (Flushing, L. I.), received their marksmen's badges, through Lieut.-Col. B. E. Valentine, I. K. P. 2d Division, on February 21. Twenty-eight badges were won, twelve of which were two bars, the others being for the past year. At the conclusion of the presentation, Col. Bissell, division inspector, examined the books and records of the company.

—In 1878 the English militia numbered 127,734 rank and file of all arms.

—At the recent charter election in Syracuse, N. Y., Capt. H. W. Clarke, 5ist New York, was re-elected Supervisor of the Eighth Ward. His majority was 314, 123 greater than that of the Alderman elected upon the same ticket.

—First Sergt. Jas. J. Bushnell, Co. G; Sergts. Robert C. Kammerer, Co. K; David B. Paige, A. Varley, and Geo. W. Milligan, Co. G, and John M. Knight, Co. H, 12th New York, have passed the regimental examining board, and will be granted warrants.

—The 5th New York will hold its annual reception at Irving Hall on March 8, at which a new stand of colors will be presented to the regiment.

—Capt. Geo. Strippel's Co. I, 5th New York, held a most enjoyable reception and ball at their armory on February 26.

—Two hundred of the veterans of the 1st New York Mounted Rifles celebrated Washington's Birthday by a grand banquet at the Sturtevant House, February 21.

—The 11th New York are directed to assemble at the regimental arsny in fatigue uniform for battalion drill on Tuesdays, March 4, 11, 18, and 25; April 1, 8, 15, and 22.

—The 11th New York, Col. F. E. Unbekant, held a most successful reception and ball at the Tenton Assembly Rooms, Third avenue, on February 24. The hall was well filled during the evening, the music was good, and many prominent military guests were present.

—Lieut.-Col. Peter Kraeger, 11th New York, has been appointed a court-martial for the trial of Privs. F. W. Meyer, Wm. Hogarth, L. Allen, N. Engel, A. Coos, and Wm. McDonald, of Co. D, 9th New York, on charges of disobedience of orders, preferred by Capt. Auld. The court will convene at the armory of the 11th regiment on Friday, March 7, at 7:30 P.M.

—The 13th New York (Brooklyn) will drill at its arsny in fatigue uniform, with white cross-belts, as follows: Co. C, D, F, and G, Thursday, March 15, and Tuesday, March 13; Cos. E, H, I, and K, Friday, March 14, and Monday, March 17. The regiment in fatigue uniform, heavy marching order, drill on Wednesday evening, March 26.

—The second annual grand ball given by the Pillsbury Light Guard, Concord, N. H., was held in Eagle Hall, February 22, culminating in a grand success. The Scandan Guards of Manchester, Capt. A. P. Devine, were received at the depot by the Pillsbury Light Guard, and escorted to the hall and entertained as guests by the company during the evening. Eighty couples participated in the grand march, which was followed by an order of twenty-two dances.

—The February reception of the 12th New York on the 21st instant was the best of the season, the attendance being unusually large, and the toilets elegant. These monthly receptions of the 12th are most thoroughly enjoyed by all participating in them. Previous to the commencement of the regular programme Co. G gave its third social reunion at its company rooms, the music vocal and instrumental, readings and recitations, being of the very best description.

—A NAVAL Kriegspiel has been invented and is played at the German Admiralty in Berlin weekly, under the supervision of the chief of the German navy. It is by no means perfect as yet, but promises to be useful in leading officers to think about tactics and the manner in which ships should be moved before and during an action.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL must decline to decide points between officers and the men of their commands. No attention paid to fictitious signatures, unless accompanied by real name and address of writer.

**LONGSHORERMAN.**—Ostriches will swallow any hard substance like a Navy button, for example, which attracts attention by its brightness. This much of Bob Stay's story is to be depended upon, and we are surprised that you should be sceptical as to the finding of an anchor in the bushes where the ostrich retired after swallowing the buttons. Where do you suppose our anchors come from?

**Russia.**—The Russian army left 129,471 men buried in the Balkan Peninsula, and of the 130,950 men sent back to Russia as sick or wounded, 43,950 died; the complete number of the dead is 172,400 men, not including those in Asia Minor.

**L.**—Under authority given by Joint Resolution of February 9, 1870, the Secretary of War has directed special enlistments for Signal Service. Full information as to requirements in point of education, scale of pay, etc., can be obtained by addressing Chief Signal Officer, Washington.

**S. B.** asks: Has the U. S. A. a piece of armament that can penetrate or go through any English man-of-war that attempts to enter New York Harbor, say the *Thunderer*? **Answer.**—We have no gun at present mounted in any of our forts that could penetrate, at ordinary range, the thickest armor carried by English iron-clads.

**ARTILLERY** writes: In your next paper please state the number of mounted batteries in the U. S. Army, regiment to which they belong, and where they are now stationed. **Answer.**—There are six mounted batteries—K of the 1st Artillery, at Fort Adams, R. I.; A of the 2d, at Fort McHenry, Md.; L of the 2d, at San Antonio, Texas; C of the 3d, at Fort Hamilton, N. Y. Harbor; B of the 4th, at the Presidio, Cal., and F of the 5th, at Charleston, S. C.

**A. M.** asks: Are heirs' or administrators' claims recognized in arrears of pension bill passed January, 1870? This is a case where dependent father, being a widower, gets pension granted on support of oldest son lost on *Ticonderoga*, August (I believe), 1864; through neglect he did not get pension until June, 1870; pension commenced June, 1870; pensioner died December, 1870, leaving four children, youngest being over 16 years of age, consequently pension ceased at his death. Are their heirs or their administrator entitled to arrears of pension under new law passed January, 1870, which he would be entitled to if he was living? **Answer.**—There is nothing in the bill concerning heirs or assigns. It simply repeals the clause of section 4709, H. R., which directs that "the pension shall commence from the date of filing the last evidence necessary to establish the same, unless the application for pension has been filed with the Commissioner of Pensions within five years after the right has accrued."

**H. B.** asks: Does a married soldier get his transportation if he applies for his discharge under Circular 1, January 3. **Answer.**—A married soldier discharged under the circular referred to is entitled to his travel pay. He would not be entitled to it if discharged at his own request prior to expiration of enlistment.

**CADET** writes: Can you tell me what foundation there is for the following statement telegraphed to the *World* from Ann Arbor? "The authorities of the Naval Academy are already discussing the programme for the next summer's cruise of the cadets. It is understood that it is in contemplation to withhold the usual summer leave, to the second class and order them on a cruise; also the first and third classes of cadet midshipmen and engineers are to make a cruise to the Madagascan and the Canaries, and, if time will permit, to Portsmouth, England. The second class of cadet midshipmen are to visit the various Government ship-yards, to witness the practical operations of shipbuilding. The *Constellation*, *Nymphe*, *Mayflower* and *Standish* are mentioned as the probable ships of the cruise, which, it is expected, will last three months, and that the ships will return in time to give the whole school a month's leave." **Answer.**—There is no official foundation for the foregoing. The shortness of the term for cruising caused a change a few years ago in the custom of sending practice ships to foreign stations; and the season is shorter now than it was then. Besides, it was general admitted that the cadet acquired far more practical knowledge of seamanship and other branches in exercising in inland waters than on the ocean. A sailing ship would consume nearly the whole period in going and returning. It is probable that the *Constellation* and the *Wachusett* will be the practice ships for the coming cruise.

**MAJOR BRANTZ MAYER.**—Major Brantz Mayer, U. S. Army, on the retired list, died Feb. 23, 1870, at his residence in Baltimore, Md., of ossification of the valves of the heart. Major Mayer was appointed an additional paymaster of volunteers March 13, 1863, and Jan. 17, 1867, a major and paymaster in the Regular Army. He received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel of volunteers, and on the 13th of June, 1875, was placed on the retired list, having reached the age of sixty-six years.

Major Mayer was widely known as an author of reputation, and in his native city of Baltimore was held in special esteem as a citizen of great public spirit. He was born in that city, Sept. 27, 1809, being the youngest son of Christian Mayer, of the house of Mayer and Brantz, well known in the early part of this century for their extensive commercial operations with foreign ports. The elder brother of Brantz Mayer, Charles F., was a distinguished lawyer, and Brantz was educated for that profession. His early training was partly at St. Mary's College, Baltimore, but mostly by a private tutor. He studied law during a voyage to China, Sumatra, and Java in 1827-28, and on his return finished his studies in the University of Maryland, and was admitted to the Bar in 1832, and subsequently to the U. S. Supreme Court. He practised his profession until 1855, except during 1832-33, when he was in Europe, and in 1842-43, when he was in Mexico as Secretary of the United States Legation to that Republic. In 1851 and 1855 Mr. Mayer went to New Orleans, first as one of the executors of John McDonough, who had named him to that trust in his will, and who left the body of his estate to the cities of Baltimore and New Orleans, and afterward, as one of the Commissioners nominated by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the administration, sale and liquidation of the city's interest in that estate. He ended his trust in the spring of 1859, transferred to Baltimore the large assets which now support the McDonough Educational Institution, and drew up the scheme and ordinance which govern it. Major Mayer was the founder of the Maryland Historical Society, and was its second President until he went to California in 1870. He also, in connection with two friends, devised and put into effect the plan of gift subscriptions for the erection of the Atheneum Building, in which the Historical Society and Mercantile Library Association are forever permanently accommodated without cost. When the civil war

broke out, in 1861, he engaged actively in aiding the national cause, and was appointed a brigadier-general of the Maryland volunteer forces. When he returned from Mexico in 1844, he published his well known "Mexico As It Was and as It Is," a book of travels. Several years after he published in two octavo volumes, illustrated, his "Mexico—Aztec, Spanish and Republican." He also contributed largely to the general literature of this country in pamphlets, reviews, lectures, and memoirs, treating chiefly of historical, ethnological, and antiquarian subjects. His "Captain Canot; or, Twenty Years of an African Slave," attracted much attention in this country (where 17,000 copies were sold) as well as in England and France where it was republished. He was also the author of "Tah-gah-jute of Logan and Captain Michael Cresap," of a memoir of the historian J. C. Sparks, of a discourse on "Penn and Calvert," delivered before the Smithsonian Historical Society, and of the memoirs and journal of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, reprinted for the Maryland Historical Society, in 1876, as its centennial memorial. His historical sketch of Baltimore, published in 1871, is also well known. He was for some time editor of the Baltimore *American*. In recognition of his literary, historical, and scientific labors, he was honored with membership by nearly all of the leading societies of this country. The last public position Major Mayer held was as one of the judges in the department of art at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia.

**MISS JULIET CORSON,** Superintendent of the New York Cooking School, gives an explanation of the principles of domestic economy taught in the New York Cooking School, in her recently published work entitled, "Cooking School Text Book and Housekeepers' Guide," issued by the Orange Judd Co., 245 Broadway, New York. Price \$1.25, postage prepaid. The book is interesting because of the simplicity of its directions, and as a result of Miss Corson's exceptional experience; and it is of importance to every housekeeper, as showing how the most elaborate as well as the simplest dishes can be most economically prepared, a list of prices being given in each instance. It is arranged in twelve lessons each, of the "first artisan course," "second artisan course," "plain cooks' course," and "ladies' course," with an appendix to be used with all the different courses and a chapter each on "the physiology of nutrition, and 'the chemistry of food.'" Miss Corson is an enthusiast on the subject of good cooking, and she is rendering a most important service by endeavoring to disseminate correct ideas on the subject of the preparation of food. She is doing much to show that economy and good living are not incompatible.

## FOREIGN ITEMS.

**A GERMAN** paper publishes an interesting account of the migration of people caused by the Russo-Turkish war, and which is described as the greatest witnessed since the Middle Ages. Since 1877 the emigration in several Turkish provinces has exceeded a million souls. "Some districts have been completely evacuated, and occupied almost immediately by another population."

The monthly cost of the English expedition against Afghanistan is estimated at from five to six millions of dollars.

SEVERAL of the English iron-clads in the Mediterranean have been ordered home for the alleged reason that their boilers are worn out.

The first German man-of-war ever armored with plates manufactured in Germany, and of German iron, was launched at Bremen on the 28th Jan., and named the *Chamaleon*.

The want of judgment displayed in selecting recruits for the cavalry of the French army is censured by the *Evenir Militaire*. Taking twenty regiments picked out entirely by chance from the whole number in the army, the writer proceeds to show, by quoting official statistics, that out of the 3,439 recruits drafted into them last month, 935 men, or more than a quarter of the whole contingent, were totally illiterate. To entrust any of these men with the carriage of a despatch would be highly imprudent, as they would not be able to decipher the address written on it, or even to read the information given on the direction posts along the road they had to travel.

**Broad Arrow** reasons that "the introduction of torpedoes into naval warfare has caused such an altered condition of naval tactics that the time has arrived when we must carefully consider whether we can with safety continue to build ships of the large size we are now building; or whether the days of *Inflexibles* and *Dreadnoughts* have not passed."

**MAJOR-GEN. HAMLEY.**—C. B., R.A., at the Royal United Service Institution, on Friday, Dec. 13, delivered a lecture "On the Strategical Conditions of our Indian North-West Frontier."

A MIXED commission of Army and Navy officers has been formed in England to report upon machine guns.

THE Japanese naval officers in England have reported so favorably of the Royal Naval College at Greenwich that their government has determined to establish an imperial naval college at Tokio upon its model.

AFGHAN fanatics who attempt to assassinate English officers are, if caught, promptly shot and then burned. This latter process prevents them from going to Heaven, which is their chief object in killing Englishmen. This treatment will, it is thought, moderate the patriotic enthusiasm of the children of the Ameer.

THE January number of the journal of the Russian Minister of Marine, the *Morskoi Sbornik*, which has just appeared, gives a detailed account of the operations of the Russian fleet during the past year. In this the naval authorities take credit for having created a very powerful cruiser arm and developed the torpedo branch to a point as yet unattained by any other European Power, 110 torpedo boats being constructed within seven months.

A CORRESPONDENT of *Engineering*, says: But what organization is there at either the War Office or the Admiralty to foster and develop naval and military science? None whatever. What body is there to examine and judge of new inventions? Merely departmental committees. Instead of this, there ought to be a permanent paid commission of the most eminent men of science in the country, aided by one or two soldiers and sailors, as professional assessors, to examine all new inventions, and to advise the departments in all difficulties. Artillery officers have to examine juries in their drill, and to make them describe guns and ammunition as laid down "in the book." Inseparably, as such men get older and fossilized, they regard any suggestion for an improvement in the *status quo* as little short of mutiny. Hence the blind infatuation with which they have stuck to "the Woolwich system of rifling," to muzzle loading, to building up guns in steps and stairs, in other words, with so many specially weak places, to studs, to wads, and so on. A properly constituted commission of independent scientific men, accustomed to original research instead of to drill, would have knocked such fallacies on the head years ago.

THE first consignment of Gatling guns has arrived at the Ferozepore Arsenal, N. W. India. It is expected that a battery of these guns, which will be extremely effective against undisciplined bodies of men, will be sent to the seat of war in Afghanistan, as soon as special carriage can be invented for them. They will be carried on mule-back, like ordinary mountain train batteries.

THAT engineer officers should have the command of their own men must," the *United Service Gazette* says, "appear clear to any reasoning mind untrammelled by official prejudice; and that the increasing intricacy of the complicated machinery and torpedo gear on board a modern man-of-war, and the large increase in the engine room staff of Her Majesty's ships during the last few years, will have the effect of bringing about this desirable consummation before a very long period has elapsed, there cannot be a doubt." The same paper says: "No attempt to deal with the efficiency of the navy can prove successful unless due attention be paid to the position and condition of the Royal Marine forces. In numerical strength alone the two divisions of that distinguished corps amount to about one-fourth of the whole naval personnel. They account for even a larger proportion of the combatants proper."

IN the English dock yards at present are the following iron-clads, viz., Ajax, Agamemnon, Majestic, Conqueror, and Polyphemus. At the same time there are completing for sea the Nelson, Northampton, Orion, Dreadnought, Inflexible, Neptune, and Superb. The Ajax and Agamemnon will each be ready for sea within two years. The Majestic and Conqueror, steel clads, and the Polyphemus within three years. The vessels completing for sea will be ready this year.

THE question of suppressing the great commands in the French army and also the rank of marshal has more than once been mooted, and it is thought probable (a Paris correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes) that the new government, when formed, will make this concession to Republican opinion. According to General de Wimpffen, if Napoleon I. re-established the rank of marshal and the great commands, it was because he had to deal with allies whose *armes propres* would have been offended had they been called upon to serve under simple generals. When the First Empire fell the grade of marshal was preserved, but the great commands were suppressed. Both were naturally re-established by Napoleon III., who placed at the head of the army officers devoted to his person.

THE British *Trade Journal* calls attention to the fact that the English have never fully recognized the changes in England's maritime position produced by steam, and by the development of commerce. It is apparently content to go on in days of steam as it did in days of sail power, and hence it is that they have enormously costly war vessels carrying but little coal, and huge and ever-increasing mercantile steam fleets (the number of steamers engaged in foreign trade is now four times what it was in 1859), while no national movement whatever has been made for the supply of coal to war ships when hostilities occur, nor have precautions been taken for the security of the coal depots of England's mercantile fleets when war breaks out. Water roads 13,000 miles in length are commanded by points of British territory, but there is not a place of refuge where the merchant ships in war can find even temporary safety or security along their whole length. The nation, the writer strongly urges, should insist that the coals and supplies for the maintenance of English fleets should be adequately and locally protected, so as to leave the fleets free to do their work in guarding the great passes of the ocean. Many of the small neglected points of British territory which command the waterways of England and of her colonies, have already been converted by private enterprise into important coaling stations, and their efficient local protection will, in war, be a matter of vital importance.





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Total cash assets, as per Insurance Commissioner's report..... 14,466,920.53

Total surplus, do. do. do. 1,621,078.03

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January 1, 1879.

Amount of Net Cash Assets, January 1, 1878, - \$34,452,905 29

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

Premiums received and deferred.....	\$6,121,856.04
Less deferred premiums Jan. 1, 1878.....	396,289.26 - \$5,725,566.78
Interest received and accrued.....	2,364,560.48
Less interest accrued Jan. 1, 1878.....	315,995.35 - \$1,948,665.18 - \$7,674,281.91
Grand total.....	\$42,127,137.20

DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

Losses by death, including Reversionary additions to same.....	\$1,687,675.61
Endowments matured and discounted, including Reversionary additions to same.....	673,051.74
Life annuities and reinsurance.....	231,005.29
Dividends and returned premiums on cancelled policies.....	2,285,674.25
Commission, brokerage, agency expenses and physicians' fees.....	518,809.94
Taxes, office and law expenses, salaries, advertising, printing, &c.....	417,258.78
Reduction of values on United States and other stocks.....	88,685.00
Profit and loss account.....	8,568.98 - \$5,918,679.59
Grand total.....	\$36,213,457.61

ASSETS.

Cash in bank, on hand and in transit (since received).....	\$982,889.43
Invested in United States, New York City, and other stocks (market value \$15,415,105.34).....	14,701,267.78
Real estate.....	4,582,270.42
Bonds and mortgages, first lien on real estate (buildings hereon insured for \$19,860,000 and the policies assigned to the company as additional collateral security).....	14,361,158.43
Loans on existing policies (the reserve held by the company on these policies amounts to \$3,295,000).....	621,984.93
Quarterly and semi-annual premiums on existing policies, due subsequent to January 1, 1879.....	379,839.09
Premiums on existing policies in course of transmission and collection (estimated reserve on these policies, \$590,000; included in liabilities).....	146,834.75
Agents' balances.....	88,088.91
Accrued interest on investments to January 1, 1879.....	306,225.98 - \$36,213,457.61
Excess of market value of securities over cost.....	638,827.62

CASH ASSETS, January 1, 1879.....

Adjusted losses, due subsequent to January 1, 1879.....	\$399,486.68
Reported losses, awaiting proof, &c.....	180,983.39
Matured endowments, due and unpaid.....	19,601.07
Reserved for reinsurance on existing policies; participating insurance at 4 per cent. Carlisle net premium; non-participating at 5 per cent. Carlisle net premium.....	38,869,388.40
Reserved for contingent liabilities to Tontine Dividend Fund, over and above a 4 per cent. reserve on existing policies of that class.....	1,041,456.87
Reserve for premiums paid in advance.....	14,987.18 - \$34,085,868.59
Divisible surplus at 4 per cent.....	2,811,486.64

Surplus, estimated by the New York State Standard at 4 1/2 per cent. over.....

From the undivided surplus of \$2,811,486.64 the Board of Trustees has declared a Reversionary dividend to participating policy-holders in proportion to their contribution to surplus, available on settlement at next annual premium.

During the year 5,069 policies have been issued, insuring \$16,948,566. Number of policies in force Jan. 1, 1876, 44,661. Amount at risk, \$126,183,119. Number of policies in force Jan. 1, 1877, 46,421. Amount at risk, 127,748,473. Number of policies in force Jan. 1, 1878, 45,605. Amount at risk, 127,901,887. Number of policies in force Jan. 1, 1879, 45,005. Amount at risk, 125,282,144. Death-claims paid 1875, \$1,634,815. . . . . Income from interest, 1875, \$1,370,686. Death-claims paid 1876, 1,547,048. . . . . Income from interest, 1876, 1,906,950. Death-claims paid 1877, 1,638,128. . . . . Income from interest, 1877, 1,867,457. Death-claims paid 1878, 1,687,678. . . . . Income from interest, 1878, 1,948,665. Divisible surplus at 4 p. c. Jan. 1, 1876, \$3,499,656. Divisible surplus at 4 p. c. Jan. 1, 1877, \$2,936,516. Divisible surplus at 4 p. c. Jan. 1, 1878, 2,864,144. Divisible surplus at 4 p. c. Jan. 1, 1879, 2,811,486.

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THEODORE M. BANTA, Cashier.	Amount at risk, \$126,183,119.
D. O'DELL, Superintendent of Agencies.	Amount at risk, 127,748,473.
CHARLES WRIGHT, M.D., Medical Examiners.	Amount at risk, 127,901,887.
HENRY TUCK, M.D., Examiners.	Amount at risk, 125,282,144.

Death-claims paid 1875, \$1,634,815. . . . . Income from interest, 1875, \$1,370,686.

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